

Thursday, April 30, 2015

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Petition unlikely to prevent move by council chiefs

# HEALTH CENTRE CLOSURE LOOMS

Report by Deborah Hardiman

A HEALTH and community centre in Walsall looks set to close – despite a long-running battle by residents and a petition with more than 1,000 signatures to keep it open.

A new report revealed that the Walsall Council-owned Broadway North Centre is surplus to requirements.

Thousands of residents previously backed a petition to prevent the centre from being sold off.

The centre is currently home to a community association and a recovery scheme for people with mental health issues that will have to move out if councillors approve the proposals.

The recommendations are for the relocation of the NHS services to an alternative site, for the centre to be declared surplus to requirements and for the community association's licence to cease. But the report further states that the building has been nominated as an asset of community value.

This means that it may be protected in future from redevelopment.

## Promises

Paddock ward Councillor Rose Martin spearheaded the campaign to keep the centre open and also campaigned for improved health provision in the area.

She said: "The officers recommendation is to sell the land off and have no consideration for the community association and or health needs, despite promises.

"I wish to remind everyone that the key priority of the Walsall Health & Well Being Strategy is to build stronger, healthier communities for individual groups in Walsall and to be able to access those appropriate facilities and services.

"If this is sold we will have nothing."

A postcard petition sent to householders and a paper petition attracted 1,000 signatures that were lodged with the council.

Despite this and a consultation with centre users, the site is now facing closure.

Park Hall Community Association runs some of its activities at the venue where it relocated to from a school two years. The trustees fear they will have to move for a second time.

The council has said the disposal of the property is not driven by its need to make cost savings.

And they add that the relocation of the mental health social care services from the centre must meet the needs of users.

The report was due to be discussed by the council's cabinet last night, Wednesday.

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## SAFETY

Crossing is upgraded after three-year fight

A ROAD crossing has been upgraded on a busy route in Walsall after three years of campaigning by residents. Walsall Council has upgraded the crossing in Darlaston Road, near Hough Road in Pleck, to a signal controlled puffin crossing.

Valerie Vaz, who is defending her parliamentary seat in Walsall South, had called on Walsall Council for the crossing to be upgraded and raised the issue in the House of Commons, handing a petition of more than 300 names to Parliament in July 2012.

## CRIME

Radio link to help target shoplifters

A NEW £30,000 retail radio link is being launched for businesses in Walsall to help crack down on crime.

Retailers will receive radios and direct links between each other and police through the digital scheme at Bloxwich, allowing them to communicate over potential shoplifters and thefts taking place in the area.

The Home Office has contributed £30,000 towards the initiative with the intention of being rolled out across Brownhills, Darlaston and Willenhall.

## HEALTH

Backing by chiefs on Manor funding

THE INJECTION of extra funding into Walsall Manor Hospital has been welcomed by health chiefs after facing 'unprecedented demand.' Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group has revealed it intends to pump in an extra £500,000 towards winter services.

Richard Cattell, chief operating officer for Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, said: "The trust faced unprecedented demand on its services during winter 2014/15."

"We welcome this additional funding and are working with the CCG to identify the right schemes and services are in place for the next winter period."

• Cope – Page 6

## INSIDE

FLAME ON, FOR MOVIE'S 40TH



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# Orchestra swings along with 40th



The orchestra in action

A JAZZ orchestra that has nurtured some of the finest musicians in the West Midlands celebrated its 40th anniversary with a rip-roaring performance of funk and swing.

Walsall Jazz Orchestra (WJO) started in 1975 to satisfy a shared love of contemporary music among its founders.

On Sunday, the 19-piece band celebrated in style with a show at Birmingham's CBSO Centre consisting solely of music penned by its members. Over the years the mainly semi-professional group has kick-started the careers of numerous players that have gone on to become

highly regarded top level musicians. And two of the orchestra's stars came back as special guests for the big show.

Martin Shaw, who has been a member of the BBC's Big Band and has performed with Jamieiroqui, returned to play trumpet, while world renowned saxophonist Julian Argüelles - who has released 12 solo albums - also put in a turn. Both of them used to play in the orchestra as teenagers. Founder member and musical director John Hughes, 75, said he never expected the orchestra to last this long when members first got together at Queen Mary's High School.

"In those days we did classical pieces, but there was a shared love of contemporary jazz and we decided to go down that route," said Mr Hughes, from Telford, a former music teacher at the school.

"We've had members come and go over the years, and it's always a pleasure to welcome them back."

The orchestra rehearses at the Forest Arts Centre on Hawbush Road, Walsall, and regularly puts on shows there.

It is due to play the Lichfield Jazz Festival on June 28 and the Birmingham Jazz Festival on July 12.

# Early bird tickets are set to break the record

SALES of Walsall FC early bird season tickets are poised to break through last year's record.

It will be the third year running they have smashed through the 2,000 barrier.

It comes after Saddlers enjoyed their first Wembley appearance in 12 years this season after reaching the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final.

Chief executive Stefan Gamble said: "The uptake was fantastic once again. Our supporters demonstrated their dedication to the cause by signing up in their droves."

"Season ticket sales are on a par with last year and as we still await credit approval on many of those supporters who opted to go for our instalment payment plan, provided courtesy of Zebra Finance, final numbers are set to marginally eclipse the total achieved in last year's campaign."

"This is extremely pleasing and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those supporters who took advantage of the great offers available."

"The Early Bird campaign always sets the tone for the season ahead and there is certainly much to look forward to here."

"I would like to thank our supporters for the backing that they have given to the team throughout 2014/15 - your backing is so important to us."

"Hopefully there will be a good turnout for Saturday's final home league game of the season and we can end on a winning note to extend our current unbeaten run."

# Search for train ticket row man

A TRAIN guard checking tickets was threatened by a passenger on a service heading from Walsall. British Transport Police officers have launched an investigation over the incident that happened on a London Midland train.

They have now released CCTV footage of the alleged male culprit in a bid to track him down.

The guard was checking tickets between Walsall and Birmingham New Street stations on March 4 when he was verbally abused.

Investigating officer Pc Nicola Salisbury said: "The member of staff was checking tickets on board the train shortly before 3.30pm. A man boarded the train at Walsall and was sitting in first class. When the guard asked the man to purchase a valid ticket, he refused. He got off the train at Perry Barr and shouted insults and threats at the staff member. "This was a very upsetting experience for the member of staff who was simply doing his job."

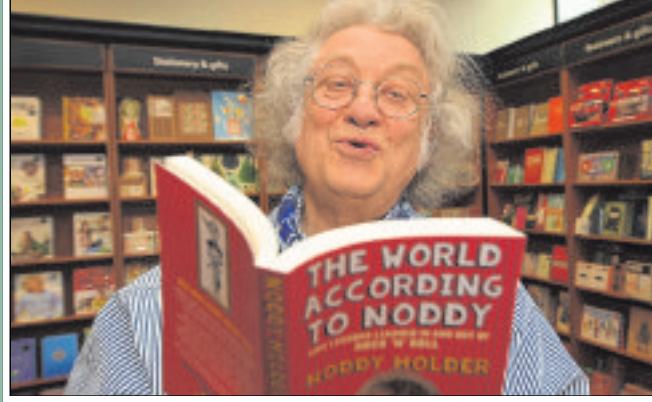
Witnesses should contact 0800 40 50 40, or text 61016, quoting reference MSUB/B3 of 21/04/2015.



The CCTV image

# Parents stage protest after stabbing claims

## Pals get the Nod for star's party



Noddy Holder signs copies of his new book The World According To Noddy at Waterstones

IF former Slade frontman Noddy Holder became the next Prime Minister some of the biggest names in show business would be in his cabinet, or so he says in his craze new book.

The popular Walsall-born entertainer chatted and joked with fans when he made an appearance at Merry Hill shopping centre to promote it. He was at Waterstones to meet shoppers and sign copies of his new book The World According to Noddy: Life Lessons Learned In and Out of Rock 'n' Roll.

His latest tome lists his pretend party titled the We're all Craze Now Party with pals 'Mrs Brown' alias Brendan O'Carroll in charge of the Home Office and comedian Frank Skinner minister of the arts so that he can promote the Black Country language as a second tongue.

"They are all eccentrics like me. I think it would work because they are hard workers and would bring some interesting ideas to



Sophie Morgan age 13 from Willenhall gets a selfie with the Slade star

the table," Noddy says. In its pages he also recollects his Top of the Pops appearances, world tours and glam rock image from his early days on the region's beat scene.

Father and daughter Will and Sophie Morgan, from Willenhall, also queued for the chance to meet him. Mr Morgan, aged 56, said: "He is a great bloke and really puts time in when he meets his fans."

POLICE were called when dozens of angry parents staged a protest at a troubled Walsall school over fears a pupil had been stabbed.

Around 30 parents turned up at The Mirus Academy on Monday demanding answers after a teenage boy was injured in the playground on Friday. Rumours continued and it was claimed the boy had been slashed with a blade. It later emerged it was an accident.

However, scenes at the school later descended into chaos with some pupils walking out of lessons and staging a sit-down protest.

An ambulance was called and a boy taken to hospital when he cut his hand climbing over railings in the melee. Parents said they were unaware of the circumstances of Friday's incident and annoyed the school in Leamore Lane had failed to inform them.

They found out about the incident after a parent posted something about it on Facebook and they were demanding answers from new headteacher, Dame Maureen Brennan.

### Organised

Some pupils left school with their parents in the protest. West Midlands Ambulance Service confirmed they had attended the school and Jamie Arrowsmith, spokesman, said: "A patient caught their hand on the fence and was taken to Walsall Manor Hospital."

Father-of-three Michael Walker organised the protest after seeing a picture of the injured boy on Facebook over the weekend.

He said: "Why were we not told? No letters have been sent, parents have not been called or texted and when parents called earlier the head refused to talk."

The school at first refused to speak directly to the parents, instead sending a message through a police officer,



The scenes outside the school

telling them to arrange individual appointments. However, when parents refused to move, Dame Maureen agreed to meet with them in the school hall. Mother-of-four Teresa Emery said: "My 13-year-old son came to me and said he was scared to go to school because a lad had been attacked."

"How can I reassure him when parents don't know the facts?" News of the demonstration spread as scores of concerned parents arrived mid-morning to collect their children.

Tearful mother-of-one Jacqueline Ruston arrived to collect her daughter and said: "I am very upset and very angry. I would never have let my daughter come to school today. I am not sending her back until I know the school is safe."

Dame Maureen confirmed an incident had happened on Friday but refused to comment on why parents were not told. On Friday the incident was reported to West Midlands Police who later confirmed it was 'accidental'.

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## Pension pot change may affect NHS, warns firm

CHANGES to NHS pensions will leave the health service short of GPs, consultants and dentists, a firm of accountants has warned.

A new cap on how much an NHS pension can earn could persuade thousands of senior NHS doctors to take early retirement – leaving the West Midlands short of their crucial skills. This is the warning from Bishop Fleming, an accountancy firm with a specialist team serving healthcare clients.

“Recent changes to pension rules mean that the NHS is likely to lose many doctors and dentists aged more than 50,” said Tim Godfrey, head of Bishop Fleming’s healthcare team.

### Ceiling

The recent reduction of the maximum pension pot is a big issue for NHS doctors – including GPs and consultants – and for NHS dentists.

“Now that the permitted ceiling for a pension pot is £1 million, many long-serving doctors and dentists – aged in their 50’s – will have reached that ceiling and will now be studying whether it is worth their while to continue working,” said Mr Godfrey.

“I understand why the Government introduced these new pension rules, but everything in life can have unintended consequences.

“On this occasion, at a time when politicians are on the General Election campaign trail, the danger is that the NHS will see an exit of much-needed experienced GPs, consultants, and dentists.”

## £1,000 is raised by charity show

A FUNDRAISING show in aid of the good causes being supported by the Mayor of Walsall’s charity appeal raised more than £1,000.

Singers Nick De Jarr, Natasha Marie and Nicole were at the event held at the Forest Arts Centre, in Leamore. The proceeds totalling £1,175 will go towards Mayor Pete Smith’s chosen charities, which include the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

At the show organiser and MS group spokesman Andy Brown was presented with the society’s outstanding commitment award by Councillor Smith. Mr Brown said: “I was very pleased with the amount raised.”

## Warning on fake festival tickets

FESTIVAL-GOERS are being warned to avoid buying tickets from unofficial sources as trading standards officers launch a crackdown on fakes, including the up-coming V Festival.

Anyone who suspects fake merchandise is being sold in Staffordshire should contact a confidential helpline on 01785 330356.

## Footballers triumph in tournament



Tom Hargreaves and James Beardmore holding the trophy

A COLLEGE football team is celebrating after winning a national tournament.

Walsall College’s Supported Learning Football Team triumphed in the Football for Students with a Disability tournament at the Association of Colleges (AoC) National Sports Championships.

The team of 12 players, who have a range of disabilities or impairments, made it through

to the finals after reaching the top spot in the regional round.

In the final they beat off tough competition from six teams representing college’s around the UK to clinch the trophy. The squad claimed victory after winning four of their six games, drawing one and only losing one, while scoring 10 goals.

The AoC National Sport Championships took place in

Bath and saw more than 1,800 college students compete in various sports.

Walsall College sports development co-ordinator, Mark Howard, said: “This is an incredible triumph for the team and everyone involved is extremely proud of the success that has been achieved. It’s hard to believe but the students only started playing together in September.”

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Greggs revamp to help hungry

A BAKERY has been re-opened after receiving a makeover to become a food-on-the-go outlet.

The Greggs branch in High Street, Brownhills, has been redesigned to improve its service to customers, according to bosses. Jayne Southall, shop manager at Greggs, said: “I am very proud to be managing this new look shop.”

Raymond Reynolds, retail director for the chain, added: “We are delighted to be able to invest and provide our valued customers with a modern and comfortable upgrade.”

### Quizzes and fun on way at venue

A SUMMER fun day and quiz nights are among the events due at a community centre. Organisers at New Horizons in Walsall will hold quizzes on May 12, July 7, September 15, October 27, and December 8 at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road.

Teams of four are required to take part at a cost of £2 per person.

The night starts at 7pm. There is a raffle and the winning team takes home half the pot. Preparations are also under way for the Blakenall on the Tropical Beach event on July 25. More details are on 01922 710636.

### Walkers take to the country hills

A GROUP of dedicated walkers are setting out on a 7.5 mile trek on the hills. The Walsall Group of the Ramblers will be heading to Grinshill, near Shrewsbury, on Sunday.

Grinshill is a moderate walk with good views of the rocks and distant views of the Wrekin and Breidden Hills. Non members are welcome.

For more details contact walk leaders Lorna and Jon Gillmon on 0121 3534102 or go to [www.walsallramblers.co.uk](http://www.walsallramblers.co.uk)

### Probe under way on cause of shed blaze

AN INVESTIGATION is under way after a timber shed accidentally caught fire at a home in Brownhills town centre.

A neighbour spotted smoke at coming from the back garden of the property, in Silver Street, shortly before 1.45pm on Wednesday.

Acting Crew Commander Craig Stanley, of Aldridge Fire Station, said: “It was started accidentally and is subject to an investigation. The occupier was in the house at the time. A neighbour saw the smoke and rang 999.”

### £60k roads boost

ALMOST £60,000 of improvements are set to be made to a busy road in Walsall. West Bromwich Road in Delves is being considered for up to four new traffic islands. The improvements being looked at by specialist traffic officers would be between Walsall Road and Greenside Way.

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## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



"PERHAPS too much Cognac." Manager Michael Grange's priceless explanation of the fire at Oxford's famous Randolph Hotel, thought to have been caused by someone cooking a beef flambe.

THAT P-word keeps popping up. People keep banging on about "progressive" politics. Have you noticed how they never tell us what they are progressing towards?

BALLOT Monkeys (C4) is a new political satire on the General Election which claims it is "so topical it hasn't been written yet." Oh, yeah? Some of the gags in the first episode had whiskers on them. Even so, it was a fair and funny effort. I loved the wonderful Sarah Hadland as the Ukip activist who can't open her mouth without going off-message (Breastfeeding? Yuk)

THIS week's rash of revelations about massive salaries and pay rises for senior NHS executives should surely focus minds on how the health service spends its money. Apparently not. When party leaders talk about the future of the NHS, they always pledge more money, even if the sole aim is to spend as much as possible. Isn't it obvious by now that the many-headed Leviathan of NHS management is perfectly capable of absorbing every penny the nation throws at it (currently £115,000 million and rising), while still delivering some of the longest queues and worst cancer-outcome rates in the developed world?

SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon says of her manifesto: "This is about how we deliver better politics, not just for people in Scotland but right across the UK." This is presumably the same UK that Ms Sturgeon and her pals want to destroy.

HOW finance works. My credit-card company, noticing that I never spend up to my credit limit, has just reduced my limit by £2,000. This releases £2,000 which they can then lend to some poor devil already up to his eyeballs in debt. The leaden lifebelt.

A READER writes: "With the election looming, there are far too many political jokers doing the rounds. The snag is, some of them will get elected."

IT is a wonderful spring for cherry blossom. When the cherries appear, the finches we see for only a few fruit-rich days per year will descend and take the lot in an orgy of scoffing. Yesterday I saw a brief flash of colour over our blossom-covered cherry tree. Some would see it as a rare sighting of a gorgeous little bullfinch. I see it as a reccie for much gorging to come, the first spotter plane before the blitz.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Killed rider was 'best in every way'

A MOTORCYCLIST who was killed in a crash has been described as "the best in every way" by his devastated family.

Christopher Fisher had gone out for a ride after weeks of helping his wife prepare for her new business in Willenhall. It was the first time in a while that the 33-year-old from Rutherford Road, Beechdale – who had a long-held interest with bikes – had

been out on his bike. He suffered multiple injuries following the accident with a car along the main A41 between Albrighton and Codswall on Tuesday April 14.

Mr Fisher, who was a plasterer by trade, leaves behind daughter Sophie, aged 11, and two step-daughters Chelsea, 19, and Charlotte, 18.

His wife Sharon said: "He was fun, he was considerate and kind. Every-

one is just traumatised." Mr Fisher had spent a lot of time helping his wife, aged 40, set up Platinum Tan Boutique in St Anne's Road.

Mr Fisher went out at around 4.30pm and was on his way back towards home when the tragedy happened. An inquest into his death was opened by coroner John Ellery, for Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin. It was adjourned until July 28.



Christopher Fisher with Sharon

## Acorns gets top accolade as champion for diversity

A WALSALL-based charity has been rewarded for its hard work after picking up a national award.

Acorns Children's Hospice, picked up the Diversity Champion Not for Profit Sector Award 2015 for its work in meeting the diverse cultural and religious needs of the children and families it supports.

The award highlights organisations who actively promote diversity in ways that benefit all employees, the organisation's users and the wider community. The charity, which currently supports over 190 children in the Black Country, was awarded an overall score of 93 per cent.

Emma Aspinall, director of care at Acorns, said: "The children and their families at Acorns come from a wide range of cultural and religious backgrounds. We work hard to ensure we respect and meet their different and individual needs as part of our provision of specialist palliative care.

"This ranges from providing halal and kosher meals and celebrating different cultural and religious festivals and ensuring we understand the special funeral and burial practices of different beliefs."

Meanwhile, a gala evening reflecting the region's cultural diversity is on June 6 at the CSN International Exhibition and Conference Centre on Highgate Road in Balsall Heath, in aid of Acorns. An East Meets West themed programme, will invite guests to celebrate different cultures with a showcase of food, fashion, music, dancing and comedy.

## Motorway work to spark delays

MOTORISTS are facing weeks of delays during a series of night time closures on the M6 in the Black Country and Staffordshire which started on Monday.

The motorway will be fully closed northbound from junction 10, for Walsall, to 13, for Stafford, for resurfacing work. It will close overnight on weekdays until May 15.

It will see traffic being diverted off junction 10 along the A454 Willenhall Road, onto Bilston Street island and the city ring road before heading towards the Stafford Street junction.

It will then be directed north along the A449. The city council's traffic control centre will open one night a week during the works period for five hours to monitor traffic flow and check signal timings.

## Fences are installed to deal with horses

NEW wooden fences have been installed in Walsall following reports that horses are escaping grazing land and causing a potential danger to drivers. The fences have been put up in Bridge Road and Millfield Avenue, Pelsall, at the cycle track.

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# Ofsted says standards at school are on rise

ACADEMIC standards are rising at a school which is making 'reasonable progress' towards coming out of special measures, but still has a long way to go, Ofsted inspectors say.

Lodge Farm Junior Mixed and Infant School, in Willenhall, was placed into special measures following an Ofsted inspection in 2013.

A recently published report, following the inspection last month, said some improvements had been made at the school in Furzehank Way, but more needed to be done.

It said academic standards remain low across the school, but are rising and are rising faster in key stage two than in key stage one.

Inspectors said writing was improving across almost all the school but progress in reading had stalled for the youngest pupils. They said the quality of teaching remained 'variable'.

Inspector Angela Westington said: "It is improving in key stage two, but has stalled in parts of key stage one and the early years foundation stage where much of the teaching is carried out by supply teachers.

"This is not a reflection on the individual teachers. The number and combination of supply teachers, staff absences and job shares in the lower school are making more difficult the task of embedding and building upon agreed routines and instilling higher expectations. Despite this, there has been a determined focus on raising the quality of teaching through professional development for all, and personalised support for individuals."

## Manor urgent care base plan

A NEW urgent care base will open at Walsall Manor Hospital within five years as health chiefs are to push ahead with the plans.

Urgent care will run from the hospital site, based at the A&E department, to create the walk-in service. Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group has been looking at the option and is now part of its proposed operational plan.

The current Walsall Walk-In Centre is based in Digbeth, but is still due to move to the Saddlers Centre for up to five years this summer.

A report put forward through Dr Amrik Gill, chairman of Walsall CCG, says: "People would be able to 'walk' into the service at any time of the day for urgent care or be brought to the service by ambulance 24/7."

## Town church set for fundraiser

AN afternoon of music, stalls and worship is due on May 16 at St Lawrence Church Hall, in Church Street, Darlaston. The event is taking place to raise money for the Tearfund project and admission is free.

# Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of theirs.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

Desi Divas at New Walsall Art Gallery



# Stepping out with colour at gallery

DESI Divas brought dance, drama and song to Walsall as part of the town's Vaisakhi festival.

The event was hosted by The New Art Gallery on Saturday.

The annual celebration marks the birth of the Sikh religion and harvest time.

Surjit Rai, event organiser said: "Sikhism has its foundations firmly in equality."

The dancers were part of a full line-up of entertainment including live music, performers, Mehndi and family workshops.

This year's theme was the turban and visitors are invited to explore the history and find out more about the crown of Sikhism, which has become a symbol of equality and a sign of bravery. Visitors also heard the roar of pioneering international artists Lions of Punjab.

There were displays by Baba Deep Singh Group, spiritual martial arts skills and visitors met the Dharam Seva Records team behind the hit film Chaar Shaibzaade.

Classical vocalist Sardar also performed and there was electrify-

ing bhangra with the Desi Bhangra Crew. The New Art Gallery Walsall is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10am to 5pm, and on Sundays from midday to 4pm.

As well as the Vaisakhi festival, the whole gallery was open with the FOUND exhibition on floor three, Sikander Pervez installation on Floor four, the Garman Ryan Collection on Floors one and two, including The Cliffs Beardsmore Gift and Darren Banks, The Raven exhibitions.

For more information visit [www.thenewartgallerywalsall.org.uk](http://www.thenewartgallerywalsall.org.uk)

# Extra £500k to help Manor cope in winter

**AN EXTRA £500,000 is to be ploughed into easing pressure on Walsall's Manor hospital this year.**

Funding towards its winter resilience programme will be increased to £1.6 million under plans from the borough's Clinical Commissioning Group.

Walsall Healthcare NS Trust which runs the hospital was forced to declare a major incident in January due to the demand on resources.

Hospitals draw up annual winter plans to deal with the expected influx in patients and last year in Walsall extra bed space was created and staff levels boosted.

It is not known at this stage what the new money will be used on.

A report from Dr Amrik Gill, chairman of the Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group, said: "Walsall CCG has increased the proportion of winter resilience funding available to the Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust from £1.1m in 2014/15 to £1.6m in 2015/16.

"The opportunity to increase this investment has arisen as a consequence of targeted recurrent funding from the Better Care Fund."

It comes as Walsall Manor has been battling against rising admissions which has seen growing numbers of patients coming from Staffordshire. It has seen the hospital struggle to hit the four-hour A&E waiting time target of 95 per cent over the last year.

### Capacity

The under-pressure hospital faced one of its busiest periods over Christmas in late December and early January when it was pushed to full capacity. The hospital was forced to declare a major incident at the height of its problems, with more staff drafted in to help.

It faced one of its busiest periods ever and was pushed to full capacity, with almost 100 extra patients a week between the end of December and early January.

Since then, it has launched a £3.5m recruitment drive to bring in up to 85 permanent nurses and 35 care support workers under long-term moves to boost its workforce. This is despite the need for the hospital trust to cut almost 50 posts as it plans to save £10.5m this year. The equivalent of 48 roles are expected to be lost, although health bosses insist the overall number of staff will increase due to the agreed investment in nurses. The trust set a savings target of £13m last year but is targeting £10.5m over the next 12 months.

## Sky's the limit for work friends



High time – David Fisher, Martin Loynes, Jenna Webster and Carl Price, from Local Homes, Walsall

A GROUP of work friends from Walsall will swap the factory floor for a sky high challenge to raise money for a local hospice.

The team from Local Homes in Beechdale will be jumping out of a plane at 13,500ft in a charity skydive in aid of St Giles Hospice.

Jenna Webster, aged 26 has helped to organise the fundraiser on July 25 and said: "It is something we have all thought about doing so we decided to go for it

and we decided we should do it for a good cause.

"It's a challenge we all wanted to tick off our lists but I am really scared, my tummy turns every time I think about it. I am scared of heights but I think most people would be at the thought of jumping out of a plane."

Miss Webster has worked with Martin Loynes and Carl Price for three years at the site on Stephenson Avenue and David Fisher,

joined the team a few months ago. She added: "We are really good friends, both in and outside of work. We want to raise as much money as we can for the hospice because my mother works there."

The four friends will take to the skies from Skydive Langar close to Nottingham.

For more information visit [www.stgileshospice.com/walsall](http://www.stgileshospice.com/walsall)

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### School in the swim at finals

A SCHOOL in Walsall is celebrating its successes in the Black Country swimming finals.

Pheasey Park Farm Primary School was the only school in the finals to achieve a top three position for both their boys and girls teams with boys achieving bronze and girl's silver – missing gold by only one point.

The finals were held at Langley Baths. Jane James, swimming teacher at Pheasey Park Farm, said: "We are very proud of our children's achievements and also thank our parents and staff for their support."

### Office block bid for apartments

FRESH plans to transform a Walsall town centre office block into apartments have been submitted.

Firm proposals to redevelop floors eight to 12 of Tameway Tower in Bridge Street for 30 one and 15 two-bedroom homes, along with part of the ground floor, will now be considered. The business units on the floors on lower levels are due to remain in place.

Developers have considered converting more floors for residential. The application for prior approval has been lodged with Walsall Council.

### Shut restaurant now back open

A RESTAURANT that was closed after mouse droppings were found inside has now reopened.

Po Wing, in Harden Road, Walsall, has been cleaned and disinfected to clear the recent infestation.

Neil Harris, Walsall Council's principal environmental health officer, said: "The business has fully cooperated with the environmental health team and we are committed to helping the business improve hygiene standards on a continual basis."

### VE Day remembered with special show

A CONCERT will celebrate the 70th anniversary of VE Day. Heroes & Sweethearts is at the Prince of Wales Theatre, Cannock on May 22 and 23 in aid of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, from Aldridge Musical Comedy Society (AMCS).

Publicity officer Sarah Carter said: "It is an honour and a privilege to be in a association with the Royal British Legion for our show."

Tickets are available from 01543 578762 or [www.aldrigemcs.co.uk](http://www.aldrigemcs.co.uk).

### Summer fun event

A FAMILY fun day will take place in Darlaston this summer. People of all ages are invited to join in the fun at Darlaston Town's Bentley Pavilion ground on July 11. A host of activities will be available include a bouncy castle, Pimms tent and tombola. The event takes place from 12noon-6pm.



# Political advice – from a murderer

STILL wondering which way to vote in the election? Seeking wise counsel on where to put your cross come polling day?

Fear not. Moors murderer Ian Brady has entered the debate, and has put his thoughts on paper. Apparently, he believes most professional criminals are Tory voters, he says David Cameron represents "the usual mob-pleasing PR drivel expected from such bovines", and believes David Dimbleby is an "establishment dumpling". Suffice to say, he is not very fond of Ed Miliband either, although it's probably best not to go into his rather offensive thoughts on that matter.

Apparently, Brady hasn't read a newspaper since 1998, and keeps up to date by watching the Middle East television channel Al Jazeera – don't you just reckon they will be thrilled with that endorsement? Still, it's wise to remember all this next time the European Court of Human Rights starts banging on about giving prisoners the vote.

□□□□□

A FEW weeks ago, a note from the council contractors landed on the doormat informing us that the road would be resurfaced. Among other things, it boasted how environmentally friendly the new resurfacing process would be. I know we have to take care of the wildlife these days, but was it really necessary to carefully lay the asphalt around a dandelion?

□□□□□

THE problem with many of the email scams is that very often it is very hard to tell what is genuine. I received a communication supposedly from B&Q, telling me how it was "the perfect place to choose a new shade of paint, invest in some kitchen cabinets, or simply buy a few plants for the garden". It also told me that if I clicked on the attached link, I might be in with the chance of winning a £500 voucher. However, I think on this occasion, it might not be all it seems. I'm really not convinced that [bq@yazmin.homeybottom.com](mailto:bq@yazmin.homeybottom.com) is an official B&Q email address.

□□□□□

MORE weirdness from the world of education. Turnham Primary School in south-east London is now insisting that all three-year-olds must now sign a contract guaranteeing that they will be tolerant of various things, including "race, gender, class, ability, faith, sexual orientation or lifestyle", and that they must "refrain from using transphobic language in the school."

I suppose we should be impressed by the fact that all the children are presumably able to read and write at such a tender age of three, although it does not say what action they take if they breach the agreement. Court proceedings to confiscate their yo-yos, perhaps?

But really, isn't it stretching things a bit far?

Slade perform Them Kinda Monkey's Can't Swing



On the road and on the water in between performances



The boys enjoy themselves with some water for the fans



Tom Conti as the band's manager Robert Seymour

Noddy, Jim and Dave are caught on camera

Don's character Charlie, with one of his foundry colleagues

# Flame and fortune

**PETE MADELEY** takes a look at Slade's short-lived silver screen stardom, 40 years on from their movie's release

IT has been described as 'the Citizen Kane of British pop films' and features one of the world's most successful rock bands performing in a gritty expose of the darker side of the music industry.

It's now 40 years since Slade in Flame hit cinema screens, starring Black Country glam troupe Slade playing fictitious musicians in a made-up band.

At the time they were riding the crest of the wave on the back of a string of number one hits including Cum On Feel The Noize, Skweeze Me, Pleaze Me and Take Me Bak 'Orne. But movie-goers expecting bell-bottomed hi-jinks and Walsall's Noddy Holder screaming 'It's Christmaaaaaa!' every five minutes were in for a shock.

What they got was an at times bleak view of the music business, complete with unscrupulous agents, dangerous gangster types and a band's rise to stardom followed by inevitable fall from grace.

## Fantasy

Sure there's humour – a furious Noddy singing while padlocked inside a coffin on stage is comedy gold – but this was not your average film about a rock band.

It was a million miles away from The Beatles' A Hard Day's Night, the rock star fantasy of the David Essex vehicle Stardust and various glam rockers' bizarre Never Too Young To Rock. According to Slade drummer Don Powell, that was precisely what the band intended.

"We had no interest in making another typical film about a rock band, that had already been done," said Don, who lives with his family in Aarhus in Denmark.

"None of us really knew what we had let ourselves in for. But we ended up with a film that comes across as pretty dark."

"It shows the downside of the music business, all the crooks and the gangsters."

Don returned to Wolverhampton the city of his birth as guest of honour at a Slade convention at the Robin 2 club in Bilton, organised



Slade at the Robin in 2013, from left, John Berry, Dave Hill, Don Powell and Mal Nutty

to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the iconic movie. Filmed over the course of six weeks at locations across the UK, Slade in Flame follows the fortunes of a fictitious band as they hit the road to the big time at the tail end of the swinging 60s.

In the film members from two rival bands join up to form Flame, giving them the same line up as the real-life Slade – Noddy Holder, Don Powell, Dave Hill and Jim Lea.

From then on it's a telling tale of a young band marketed and exploited to the point where they eventually tire of the whole business and pack it all in.

The idea for a film was hatched by Slade manager Chris Chandler, who saw it as the next logical step in the band's successful career.

It was written by Andrew Birkin – with more than a little guidance from the band themselves. "The first story Andrew brought to us wasn't really what we wanted," said Don.

"So we took him and Richard Loncraine (director) on tour with us to the States for a few weeks. If you want to know what life in a band is like, go out on tour!"

"They came to all the gigs and travelled with us – really got to know us as people. There's a lot of spare time and we would tell stories about daft things that had happened to us and other bands."

Andrew had a tape recorder with him all the time. Although the film is fictional a lot of what you see in there actually happened in real life, although not necessarily to us."

The early scenes of two young bands plying their trade around bingo halls and weddings certainly echo the pre-Slade band The 'N' Tweens. And Don's character Charlie is shown grafting in a factory – a nod to his early real-life job as a foundry worker in Willenhall.

The aforementioned Noddy-in-a-coffin scene reflects the antics of Screaming Lord Sutch, who was once trapped inside a coffin on stage while he performed with his band The Savages. But there are times when the film departs wildly from reality.

In one memorable scene Jim Lea sees Noddy tending to his pigeons. "Come in," invites Noddy, covered from head-to-toe in pigeon muck. "They're vegetarians."

"To this day I'm sure Noddy has never

done anything like that," chuckled Don. "The thought of Noddy training pigeons! I think Andrew pulled that one out of the sky."

Respected actors were also brought onto the cast, including Alan Lake who played the appropriately named Jack Daniels and Tom Conti as the band's manager Robert Seymour.

From a stint at Her Majesty's pleasure, Lake was fired during his first day on set after enjoying a lengthy liquid lunch – only to be reinstated when his wife Diana Dors agreed to police his sobriety for the remainder of filming.

Don admits his nerves began to jangle prior to filming, his concern exacerbated by a tragic car accident he was involved in that killed his fiancée Angela Morris and left him suffering severe short-term memory loss.

He said: "I had amnesia after the car crash and thought: 'There's no way I'm going to be able to learn my lines'."

"But of course I didn't have to learn the whole film in one go. I would learn what I needed to before I went on set, so it wasn't as hard as I thought. I actually found it was great mental exercise for me to learn things. I spent a lot of my spare time on set watching how things are done."

The film also spawned a best selling book by John Pidgeon and a soundtrack which sold 170,000 copies before the film was even released. "Slade has always been about the music first and foremost," said Don. "We definitely weren't actors."

"The music was a central part of the film, but after it had premiered it wasn't the music that most people were talking about." Don is alluding to the somewhat mixed response Slade in Flame garnered from fans and critics alike. Some of the reviews were positive – with the BBC's Barry Norman praising it for having 'real grit' and 'real integrity' – while others suggested fans were better off just listening to the soundtrack.

Don said that sections of the band's fanbase struggled to come to terms with the harsh realities of the music business depicted in the film. There's also an argument that the film may have ended up damaging Slade's career. They never scored another number one hit single in the UK after its release, having had six between 1971 and 1973.

"Part of the problem was that people couldn't get their heads around the fact that we were playing characters, not ourselves," Don muses. "But I'm glad we did it and I'm proud of the film."

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# Change needed in the care system

IN a few weeks time, we will be blessed with a new government or coalition that will be responsible for running the country. One of the most serious problems they will face, is (or should be) the perilous state of social and domiciliary care of the elderly.

It is becoming increasingly obvious that despite my passionate dislike of zero hours contracts within care, these have evolved as a consequence of the problems that currently exist within care at present.

The money that care providers are paid by local authorities are constantly being

squeezed and they would be unable to make a worthwhile profit without the use of ZHCS.

Local authorities are facing cuts by central government, in the name of improving efficiency. The people who are dependent upon such care, need your support! They don't need money from you, all they need, is for you to contact your MP now, in order to put pressure on them to commit themselves and their parties into taking the urgent action that is required, i.e. major investment.

A KYTE  
Great Wyrley

## Miliband stand left family out

ONCE again Peter Rhodes (April 14) plays his piece for one-stringed fiddle 'Miliband and the Backstabber'.

The Labour Party has drifted further and further to the right, but it hasn't yet adopted male primogeniture as the principle for choosing its leaders. Both Miliband brothers stood and one won. Get over it.

Would Rhodes apply the same absurd notion to tennis matches? Serena Williams (born 1981) would never have played against big sister Venus (born 1980). If the Labour Party were to decide the time had come to choose a woman leader, Angela and Maria Eagle might be contenders. Would Rhodes wish the decision to be made on the basis of which twin appeared first?

An even stronger female candidate is Yvette Cooper. Or should she be the submissive little wifey and let her husband Ed Balls have the field to himself? On the other side of the house Virginie Bottomley outshone her husband Peter.

A T HARRISON  
Walsall

## Aid is just and humane

I READ with understanding the letter of M Gough asking for an end to the aid budget. Then I take a Saturday afternoon stroll up Park Street, Walsall.

Stomachs bulge over the tops of jeans, fast food outlets are busy, even the Big Issue sellers have problems with obesity. Then I turn on the TV and see pictures of some thin, African child, dying, with flies crawling all over it. I cannot equate the two.

Despite food banks, and some genuine deprivation, poverty so often comes with obesity and a colour TV set. How can anyone who is part of humankind say that we can do nothing for these people?

Not India, not China and not money. All aid in kind, directed and with a significant proportion for birth control.

K WATKINS  
Walsall

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Walsall Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial,  
51-53 Queen Street  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

### EMAIL

walsall.chron@  
expressandstar.co.uk

## Enough to tip you over the very edge

ON Sunday, April 12, I, like many others, needed to take some household rubbish to the Fryers Road Municipal Tip, Walsall.

As I turned from Leamore Lane on to Fryers Road, I was immediately in a long traffic jam, all queuing for the tip.

I was stuck in the queue for more than 30 minutes before I arrived at the destination, which after all, is just a few hundred yards away.

It should have taken nothing more than five minutes maximum.

I saw many frustrated motorists giving up and turning around in their vehicles!

Think again!  
CLLR PETE SMITH  
Blakenall Ward,  
Walsall MBC

Who knows what some of them may have then did

with the rubbish they had intended for the tip.

The problem has arisen because of the tip now being closed on both Thursday and Friday (as a result of the budget cuts).

Not only is it causing inconvenience and long queues, it is also creating a traffic problem on Fryers Road.

This false economy has not been thought out by the council leadership.....traffic congestion, frustrated and long waiting recycle conscious residents and maybe as a by-product, extra frustrated and angry new fly tipppers!

Think again!  
CLLR PETE SMITH  
Blakenall Ward,  
Walsall MBC

I WOULD like to share what another amazing night I had seeing Michael Ball in concert at Birmingham Symphony Hall.

As always Michael never failed to have the whole audience agog with his amazing voice and performance; he had the crowd in the palm of his hand. He can sing any type of song.

It was also my first meet and greet with him and he makes you feel so at ease with his big cuddles and eye contact as he speaks to you. A true star of the old school where fans matter to him.

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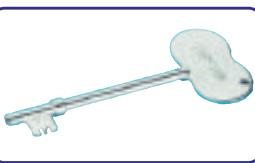
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# Police rule out foul play in death of Charlotte, 23

POLICE have ruled out foul play in the death of a young mother from Walsall whose body was found in the grounds of a school.

Three people were arrested in connection with the death of 23-year-old Charlotte Christodoulou earlier this year.

Police said her death is not being treated as suspicious after a post-mortem found that the mother-of-one died of hypothermia. Her body was discovered in the grounds of Harlescott Junior School on January 4.

No further action will be taken against the 31-year-old woman or the 32-year-old and 39-year-old men who were arrested in Shrewsbury on suspicion of obstructing the coroner and police in their duties. Police are no longer looking for anyone else in connection with the incident.

Miss Christodoulou was from Walsall but it is understood she had been living in the Shrewsbury area for some time. Tributes poured in for her after her death and friends on Facebook said she would still 'live on' through her daughter.

Following her death she was described as a 'wonderful mother, daughter, sister, niece and granddaughter' by her family. A statement issued through her grandfather Pete at the time said: "On behalf of mum Claire and all the family I am honoured to say a few words about Charlotte.

"She was a wonderful mother, daughter, sister, niece and granddaughter. When we think of her we think of her being full of life, fun loving and always ready to embrace you. A precious part of our family has left us too early, though to us all she will never be gone or forgotten, but in our hearts and minds forever."



A post mortem found that Charlotte Christodoulou died of hypothermia

## Family in headstone plea

THE family of a schoolboy from Walsall who died after being hit by a police car have launched an appeal for donations towards a memorial headstone.

Streetly Academy student Harry-James Kirkham, aged 15, died as a result of his injuries last month.

The teenager, from Kingstanding, was crossing Sutton New Road in Birmingham after leaving a church with friends. His family, including parents Dawn Smith and Craig Kirkham, have now launched a £4,000 appeal towards

a memorial. More than £750 has already been raised.

They have said: "Harry-James was taken away too early at 15 years. He was such a giving child he wanted to donate his organs to others, which we have done."

The officer in the car, an emergency response PC based at Sutton Coldfield, was on routine patrol. The matter has been referred to the Professional Standards Department. To donate go to [www.gofundme.com/s8p5dj8](http://www.gofundme.com/s8p5dj8)

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# Photographer lens students a hand

AN award-winning photographer delivered a professional masterclass to students in the Black Country.

Gurvir Johal who has received awards for his work including a prestigious Loupe prize visited Walsall College. He spoke to photography students about how to set up and run a successful business and shared his portfolio of work.

This included some of his award winning collections and Mr Johal also gave advice and answered questions on a number of topics. These ranged from pricing strategy, marketing, networking and tips on how to stand out in a competitive industry.

Walsall College lecturer Natalie Ball said: "This was a great opportunity for students to find out about one of the career options available to them once they've achieved their degrees."

"The students were very inspired by Gurvir and gained some valuable advice that they can apply to their own futures."

Level six student Kristofor Green said: "I've always found the prospect of setting up my own business a little daunting but speaking to someone who has done it so successfully, has



Wedding photographer Gurvir Johal with photo students, back from left, Amy Hill, Taylor Bird, Josephine Stevens and Fruzsina Schreck

given me a lot more confidence. It's something I now may consider."

Following the masterclass, Gurvir has invited all the students to apply for volunteer placements where they

will get the chance to assist him at forthcoming events he has been booked to photograph. This would be a fantastic chance for students to gain real life experience of the industry."

# Shock figures on drinking and crime are published

**MORE than 43,000 people in Walsall are classed as binge drinkers, with alcohol involved in 25 per cent of all violent crime, say new figures.**

Over 200 young people aged from 10 to 19 have also had treatment for booze-related problems within three years.

Health chiefs are now drawing up an action plan to help deal with the issue amid concerns for the long-term effects of excessive boozing.

A council group has been set up through the health and well-being board due to fears of the growing strain on health services.

Councillor Ian Robertson, chairman of the board, said: "The big concerns are of those young people who are damaging themselves seriously and putting themselves at risk. They need to be aware of what they are doing to themselves but in the long-term their bodies are going to be seriously damaged."

"There is also an increase in those

older, 40 to 50 years old who are drinking at home." Councillor Pete Smith said it was important to highlight the impact of taking things to excess be it alcohol, food or drugs.

He said: "It is of concern and does have a knock-on effect on health budgets, but at the same time you can't prohibit the stuff. We have just got to keep on with the education so people are fully aware of the consequences."

The latest figures estimated there are 43,088 binge drinkers in the borough out of a population of 269,300.

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## Ambulance is now back to full health



Martin Fisher looks at clippings with volunteers David Oldhams and Tony Land, by the 1936 Guy Wolf ambulance. It dates back decades and has featured on the small screen. Now, an old ambulance has been fully restored by keen transport volunteers.

The 1936 Guy Wolf ambulance has been given some tender loving care at the Aston Manor Road Transport Museum in Aldridge. And staff there have now been given clippings charting where it came from.

It used to belong to the old Guy Motors factory in Fallings Park, Wolverhampton, as an old works ambulance.

The vehicle was also previously used in one of the Miss Marple TV series before coming into the hands of the mu-

seum. It was refurbished last summer with volunteers managing to get it back in running order.

They have also been handed a book of archives about Guy Motors which operated from the museum's base in Fallings Park from 1914 to 1982. It includes press cuttings and advert files about the vehicle manufacturer that produced cars, lorries, buses and trolleybuses.

Martin Fisher, chairman of the transport museum in Shenstone Drive, said the ambulance is a welcome addition to the collection. “We are very pleased, it is a unique vehicle.

It is a direct link to the Guy factory which was one of the biggest motoring factories in the West Midlands.”

The museum's collection also includes a tram from the 1920s, a van from around 1928 and a taxi from the 1970s, along with an old Royal Mail bicycle, bus stops and an old fuel pump.

The museum was originally based in Birmingham but had to move after a row with the city council over rent.

A pair of vintage coaches from the same Wolverhampton motor firm were also passed onto the museum last year. They came off the production line in the 1950s.

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# 60-up classmates turn the clock back 45 years

LAUGHTER rang out all night long when classmates from a school that closed almost five decades ago met up for a long-awaited reunion.

Almost 100 friends from Walsall's old Wolverhampton Road Schools, in Birchills, reunited at a party to mark the 60th birthdays of the class of 1969 to 1970. Some came from as far afield as the Isle of Man to catch up with pals that they have not seen for 45 years.

Pauline Daniels helped to organise the party held at Bentley Moor Club, in Reedswood.

"It went really well and more people than we expected turned up which was nice. Around 90 came along and many were older than our class of 1970, but word got round and they swelled the numbers. I had been in touch with a number of classmates via Facebook and we thought it would be a good idea to hold a reunion."

"We booked the function room and planned to have a disco, but to be honest most people just wanted to chat and catch up. Lots of them posted messages afterwards saying they had a brilliant time. I think everyone felt elated because they were meeting people they had not seen for 45 years. There was a really lovely feeling," Mrs Daniels, nee Jackson, of Perch Road, Beechdale, said.

Rob Everett, 60, travelled from Welshpool, and says he has fond memories of his secondary school metal work teacher Mr Lockley whose influence led him to train to become an engineer. "I've got lots of memories from my time at the school. My family lived in Reedswood Lane and I grew up in the area. I liked my metal work teacher he was very nice and an excellent teacher. As a result I became an engineer and I run a motorbike busi-



Pauline Daniels, Les Allen and Ron Workman, at Bentley Moor Social Club



Former Wolverhampton Road secondary modern pupils, during a reunion

ness working on American Choppers. "The reunion was tremendous and we all had a good time."

Wolverhampton Road Schools consisted of a Victorian secondary modern site now occupied by the town's African Caribbean Community Association and Emmanuel School. Until about 1968 it was a split building with separate classrooms for girls and boys.

There was also junior school site on the opposite side of the road that is now a block of flats.

The senior school was eventually shut in the 1970s after amalgamation with the Edward Shelley and Hillary Street schools to create the Wilfred Clarke Comprehensive that became Alumwell Community School in Primley Avenue.

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# Confusion fears over envelopes for postal votes

Workers' safety tips for pupils

CHILDREN were given a lesson on the importance of health and safety by a contractor behind a town centre cinema development.

Workers from contractor GF Tomlinson visited year five and six pupils at Butts Primary in Walsall for a list of dos and don'ts on a building site. The firm was appointed by Kier Property to lead on the £12m Walsall Waterfront project which includes national restaurant chains Bella Italia, Hungry Horse and Pizza Express.

Doug Hunter, senior health safety and environmental advisor at GF Tomlinson said: "It was great to visit the school and to explain the principles of health and safety. The children really enjoyed it and were thoroughly involved."

The firm has also launched a competition for pupils to design a poster focusing on the potential dangers associated with construction sites, including the wearing of safety equipment.

MORE than 25,000 voters could be affected by 'confusing' postal vote envelopes that would see their cast votes being sent back to their homes.

Ivor Bolton, a retired teacher from Bloxwich, discovered the error when he put his voting papers in the prepaid return envelope and his own address was shown through the envelope window rather than the Returning Officer's at Walsall Council.

The same thing happened to his wife and two children. The 68-year-old was about to post his vote when he realised the mistake.

It transpired the return envelope was identical to the one the voting instructions and voting papers were sent in.

Despite there being an address window, there was no way the Returning Officers' address could be shown. It means the only

option is to handwrite the correct address. Mr Bolton, who lives in the marginal Walsall North constituency, telephoned the election office at Walsall Council and was told 'that is how it arrived from the printers'.

He said: "At best it is confusing and at worst someone totally unaware could send it off only for it to appear through their own letter box in a few days. There is a real chance of disenfranchisement and some may even think that they were sent a second one by mistake and just throw it away. Given that Walsall North is a marginal constituency it is vastly important that all votes are received securely and correctly."

Mr Bolton has used postal votes for more than 15 years. In his household his wife Elaine, 52, son Kris, 25, and daughter Justine, 23, all use postal votes and encountered the same problem. All completed postal votes need to be returned to the Returning Officer by 10pm on May 7.

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## Miniature railway hobby is still on the right track

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By Alec Brew

FOR more than 30 years the Wolverhampton & District Model Engineering Society has been bringing together people interested in stationary engines, traction engines, aircraft, powered boats and most of all miniature railways.

It all began when Jack Acton placed a newspaper advert and the society was formed with monthly meetings.

For 10 years they only had a portable track which they set up at country fêtes and the like, but then they had the chance to build a permanent miniature railway at Baggeridge Country Park, now open every Sunday and Bank Holiday during the summer months.

Shortly after opening, an adventure playground was built alongside the railway, ideal for a family day out. The society is now extending the track with phase one including a new loop and tunnel.

The society still takes a portable track to a few events each year, and on Sunday, May 10 they will be laying a line through Tettenhall Station to commemorate the 90th anniversary since the line through Tettenhall was opened.

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Dirty Rotten Scoundrels  
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### Time of her life

Dirty Dancing star –  
Page 19

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## Jimmy Carr



Saturday, 8pm

Civic Hall, Wolverhampton

Often described as the hardest working comedian on the circuit, and a glance at his tour itinerary shows why, the gag machine with the distinctive guffaw is back with his Funny Business show. See [www.wolvescivic.co.uk](http://www.wolvescivic.co.uk)

## ROCK & POP

Joe McElderry

Sat at 6.45pm

£15 - £20.90

Wulfrun Hall,  
Wolverhampton, WV1 3HH.  
01902 552106

Bon Giovi

Friday at 7.30pm

£12 - £13

The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.  
01902 401211

S Club 7

Thu at 7.30pm, £40.08 - £51.33  
Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40  
1NT. 0121 780 4141

Beholder

Sat at 6.45pm, £8.55  
O2 Academy Birmingham B1  
1DB. 0121 622 8250

Valous

Sun at 6pm, £5 adv  
The Flapper, Cambrian Wharf,  
Birmingham, B1 2NU.  
0121 236 2421

Clare Maguire

Fri at 8pm, £7  
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5  
4TD. 0871 472 0400

## COMEDY

Stewart Lee – A Room With A

Stew

Sat at 8pm, £21

Symphony Hall,  
Birmingham, B1 2EA.  
0121 780 3333

Jimmy Carr – Funny Business

Sat at 8pm, £27.50  
Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton,  
WV1 1RD. 0870 320 7000

Comedy & Carousel

Thu at 7pm,  
£5 - £19.50  
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5  
4TD. 0871 472 0400

Tim Vine

Fri at 7.30pm, £21 - £24.20  
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.  
01543 412121

## CLASSICAL & OPERA

Royal Ballet: La Fille Mal Gardée  
Tue at 7.15pm, £11 - £18  
Light House, Wolverhampton,  
WV1 1HT.  
01902 716055

Rachmaninoff Vespers  
Sun at 4pm, £9.50 - £35  
Town Hall Birmingham, B3 3DQ.  
0121 780 3333

CBSO Haydn in London  
Wed at 2.15pm, Thu at 7.30pm,  
£12.50 - £41  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1  
2EA. 0121 780 3333

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

## Joe McElderry



Saturday, 7.30pm

Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton

The X Factor winner in 2009, the singer from South Shields went on to win Popstar to Operastar and the first series of The Jump. The 23-year-old crooner returns with his Evolution tour. See [www.wolvescivic.co.uk](http://www.wolvescivic.co.uk)

## COUNTRY & FOLK/BLUES

CBSO Friday Night Classics

Fri at 7.30pm,  
£10 - £32

Symphony Hall, Birmingham B1  
2EA. 0121 780 3333

Common Folk: Singers' Night

Thu at 8.30pm, £1

Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club,  
Walsall Road, WV3 4BP.  
01922 682018

Altan

Thu at 8pm, £18 - £20

mac birmingham, Cannon Hill  
Park, B12 9QH. 0121 446 3232

Charley Pride

Mon at 7.30pm, £30 - £40

Symphony Hall, Broad Street,  
Birmingham, B1 2EA.  
0121 780 3333

The Full English

Thu at 7.30pm, £21.50

Town Hall Birmingham, B3 3DQ.  
0121 780 3333

Rebecca Downes +...

Thu at 7.30pm, £10

The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.  
01902 401211

Dustin Kensrue

Wed at 7pm, £18.50

The Glee Club, 7Birmingham, B5  
4TD. 0871 472 0400

## ALTERNATIVE & INDIE

Jack Rocks The Road To...  
Mon at 7pm - 11pm, £5 adv

The Institute, B5 6DY.  
0121 643 0428

Pinkshinyultrablast  
Thu at 7pm, £6. adv  
The Institute, Birmingham, B5  
6DY. 0121 643 0428

## SKA/REGGAE

Fudgetstock 2015

Sun at 5pm, £5 - £6

The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.  
01902 401211

Balkanic Eruption - CUMBIA

SPECIAL, Sat at 9pm, £6

## Stewart Lee



Saturday, 8pm

Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Lee hasn't had the stadium success of some comedians and that's the way he likes it. He regularly sells out venues and has the respect of other comics, although some have been known to nick his jokes. See [www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk)

## DANCE

Embraced Burlesque

Sat at 8pm, £10

Newhampton Arts Centre,

Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.

01902 572090

## EXHIBITIONS

Artists for Ikon

Fri, Sat, Sun at 11am - 6pm, Mon

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Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace, Bir-

mingham, B1 2HS.

01922 654400

Saint Ives Artists

Sat, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am -

5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Free

New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2

8LG. 01922 654400

Sian Macfarlane

Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Fri, Sat, Tue,

Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free

The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2

8LG. 01922 654400

Soldier Stories

Fri at 10.30am - 5pm, Sat, Sun,

Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am -

5pm, Free

Birmingham Museum and Art

Gallery, B3 3DH.

0121 303 1966

Faith & Action

Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu

at 10am - 5pm, Fri at 10.30am -

5pm, Free

Birmingham Museum and Art

Gallery, B3 3DH.

0121 248 0708

Pop in Space

Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10.30am

- 4.30pm, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am

- 5pm, Free

Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1

1DU. 01902 552055

The Poetic Impossibility...

Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10.30am

- 4.30pm,

Free, Wolverhampton Art Gallery,

WV1 1DU. 01902 552055

The Current Situation

Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10.30am

- 4.30pm, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am

- 5pm,

Free, Wolverhampton Art Gallery,

WV1 1DU. 01902 552055

Floralia Festival

Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon at 11am - 5pm,

B1 2EP. 0121 236 4455

The Bodyguard The Musical

Sat at 2.30pm, Fri, Sat at 7.30pm,

£18 - £49.50

Wolverhampton Grand, WV1

1DE. 01902 57320

Collidoscope

Sat at 7.30pm, £8 - £12

Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton,

WV1 1SE. 01902 321321

Feed The Beast

Fri, Sat at 7.45pm, Sat at 2.45pm,

£12 - £20

Birmingham Repertory Theatre,

B1 2EP. 0121 236 4455

## Oh What A Lovely War



Tuesday to Saturday, 7 or

7.30pm, 2pm, Birmingham Rep

Coronation Street's Wendi Peters joins the ensemble cast for a revival of Joan Littlewood's sharp satire contrasting First World War music hall songs with the carnage of the trenches. See [www.birmingham-rep.co.uk](http://www.birmingham-rep.co.uk)

Rebecca

Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2pm,

£13.50 - £35

Birmingham Repertory Theatre,

B1 2EP. 0121 236 4455

First Stages - Open House

Sat at 11.30am,

# Keeping a watch out for Scoundrels



Scam-tastic, it's the Dirty Rotten Scoundrels cast for Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre — Michael Praed (as Lawrence), Carley Stenson (Christine), Noel Sullivan (Freddy) and Mark Benton (Andre) Photograph by Paul Rider

LIVE the Riviera life in Brum next week when eagerly-awaited comedy musical Dirty Rotten Scoundrels arrives for a fortnight run at the New Alexandra Theatre.

Direct from London's West End, where it ran for a year to rave reviews and packed houses, the hit show is

based on the classic 1988 movie starring Michael Caine and Steve Martin as a pair of conmen operating in the South of France.

The chalk and cheese partners end up vying with each other to scam a millionaire heiress.

The cast for the May 5 to 16 run in

Birmingham is led by former Robin of Sherwood star Michael Praed as Lawrence with former Hear'Say singer Noel Sullivan as Freddy. Waterloo Road actor Mark Benton plays Andre.

They are joined by Carley Stenson from Hollyoaks as Christine, the object of their desires.

## Star role start for Jessie, 22

A RISING star of the stage from Dudley will take on a lead role in the UK tour of Dirty Dancing when it comes to Birmingham Hippodrome.

Drama school graduate Jessie Hart, from Wall Heath, will star as Baby Houseman during the three-week run at the Birmingham theatre, which starts tonight.

The 22-year-old actress recently graduated from the Mountview of Theatre Arts in London and also appeared in ITV drama Arthur and George. She said: "Birmingham Hippodrome was where I saw the first show I can remember. I saw Miss Saigon there when I was about 11 with all my family. It was my favourite ever show and I'll never forget it. It's crazy to think that I will open my run of the tour, playing the leading role, Baby, on that same stage."

Lewis Kirk will star alongside her as Johnny Castle, the role that was famously played by Patrick Swayze in the 1987 film. It tells the story of two fiercely independent young people from different worlds, who fall in love at a holiday resort. It features hit songs, including Hey Baby, Do You Love Me? and (I've Had) The Time Of My Life.

Fans of the cult classic movie will delight in this stage version, particularly the famous set pieces including the line 'Nobody puts Baby in a corner' and the famous lift dance move that gets roars of approval. It has been adapted for the stage by the movie's writer Eleanor Bergstein and the production values are worthy of the West End.

Dirty Dancing will run at the Hippodrome until May 23.

**"Hippodrome was where I saw my first show"**

### Rockers coming home for concert

BLACK Country rock band Martyr De Mona — who have opened for Black Stone Cherry and the legendary Slash on tour — have announced a new gig in their home region.

Described by Midlands Rocks as 'undoubtedly the Midlands' hottest band at the moment!', Martyr De Mona will be taking to the stage at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms on December 18.

The Stourbridge band have already supported Black Sabbath, Avenged Sevenfold, and Alter Bridge.

Tickets start at £8.80 (including booking fee) and are available from Midland Box Office on 0870 3207000 or online at the [www.wolvscivic.co.uk](http://www.wolvscivic.co.uk) website.

### War and many a music hall piece

JOAN Littlewood's musical Oh What A Lovely War is coming to Birmingham Repertory Theatre. Directed by University of Birmingham graduate, Terry Johnson, the revival is at The Rep from May 5 to 9 as the final venue of the show's UK tour.

The satirical show about the First World War, in which songs of the era are performed against a backdrop conveying the harsh realities of war, will feature Ian Reddington (Eastenders, Coronation Street), Christopher Villiers (Emmerdale) and Wendi Peters, best known as Cilla Battersby in Coronation Street, in the cast. See the website [www.birmingham-rep.co.uk](http://www.birmingham-rep.co.uk)

### Ricky and co are kings of the castle

WARWICK Castle will be the location for Sounds in the Grounds this summer, a pair of concerts for rock and classical music fans.

The event will kick off on July 10 with a gig by Kaiser Chiefs, featuring singer and The Voice judge Ricky Wilson, with support from rapper Professor Green and rising star singer Ella Eyre. Then on July 11 The Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra present a Proms style repertoire for flag-waving crowds. Special guest will be The Voice 2015 runner-up, Dublin opera singer Lucy O'Byrne.

For more information see [www.soundsinthegrounds.com](http://www.soundsinthegrounds.com)

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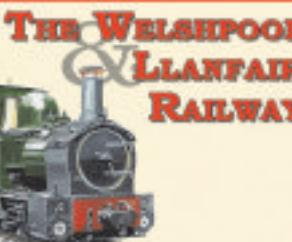
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Historic Muncaster Castle, still a lived-in family home, is the jewel in the crown



Ravenglass &amp; Eskdale steam railway is popular



Rivers meet sea – coastal hamlet Ravenglass lies on the estuary of three rivers

# This country break was fit for royalty and certainly suited me

ONE of the most naturally beautiful regions in England, the Lake District has long inspired the nation.

From William Wordsworth and the Lake Poets to the death of Joe McIntrye in Coronation Street, the Lakes have inspired popular culture as well as bringing in tourists with its stunning scenery and welcoming retreats.

Foremost in popularity is, of course, Windermere – the largest lake in the country. But dig a little further afield and there are plenty of fantastic finds spread across Cumbria.

Take, for example, the haven of Ravenglass. Home to roughly 200 residents it is the only coastal settlement in the region and sits on the mouths of three rivers – the Esk, Mite and Irt. Dating back to the Second

By Leigh Sanders

Century it was an important naval base to the Romans and is steeped in history.

From the visible remains of a Roman bathhouse to the stunning Muncaster Castle lying a mile or so inland, there is plenty to keep you occupied while abandoning the rigours of driving for a couple of days.

## Haunted

Muncaster is a must for anyone visiting the area. It is home to many ghostly tales and strange happenings which add to its intrigue. You can rent it out privately for any function ranging from university reunions to weddings. One of the main legends surrounds the wandering, dethroned Henry VI after a defeat in the War of the Roses.

After being given sanctuary at Muncaster, on his leaving he gave his drinking bowl

to the Pennington family declaring that as long as it stayed intact they would live and thrive in the place.

There is talk of a haunted bedroom, which needs to be seen before trying to make up your mind, while the legend of Tom Fool and his tenure as jester to the Pennington family landed the word 'tomfoolery' into our language and led to the brewing of a rather scrumptious ale in the area.

But topping all the history is the stunning views northwards over the Eskdale Valley towards Scafell Pike – England's highest mountain. Ruskin described it as 'the gateway to paradise', and standing outside the castle's main entrance you can see why. The grounds are extensive, hosting many walks, and there is the World Owl Centre – home to an extremely rare Ethiopian eagle owl. When your feet are all walked out, Ravenglass hosts three great

locations to recharge with food and drink.

The Pennington Hotel restaurant, The Inn @ Ravenglass and The Ratty Arms all serve up tantalising fish dishes and a bevy of locally brewed ales.

Other than the impressive Muncaster and the historic Ravenglass & Eskdale Steam Railway that provides transport inland to Dalegarth and Boot, there is no real need to pay entry to an attraction. Thousands of strolls await.

Once you have seen the coast it is worth heading inland to see what else the Lakes have to offer. If the tourist-oriented Windermere isn't to your taste then head north through Kirkstone Pass towards Ullswater – the second largest expanse of water. Kirkstone Pass offers too many Middle Earth-esque views to mention.

If a country break is what you require then look no further.



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# Latifs

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## CHOICE



Mark Harmon

### NCIS

#### Channel 5, 8.20pm

The shooting of a petty officer looks like an open-and-shut case when a Russian man is found with a recently fired gun in his car. However, the investigation takes a dramatic turn when it is revealed he is working as a spy for the Department of Homeland Security. American drama following the work of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service that investigates cases involving the US Navy and Marine Corps. Starring Mark Harmon alongside Michael Weatherly, Pauley Perrette, David McCallum, Cote de Pablo, Sean Murray, Lauren Holly, Armando Molina, VJ Foster, Nolan North, Albie Selznick, Ravil Isyanov, Geoff Pierson

## BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Paul Hollywood's Bread. (R) 12.00 BBC News: Weather. 12.10 Football Focus. 1.00 Football Focus: Championship Special. 2.15 Live Showbiz. 3.00 Coronation Street. The opening semi-final is set to reach a conclusion. 4.30 Final Score. 5.10 Film: WALL E. (2008) Pixar animated adventure, with the voice of Ben Burtt. 6.40 BBC News. 6.50 Regional Programme. 6.55 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong quizzes a line-up of contestants who work on shows with a wildlife or natural history theme. They are birdwatcher Bill Oddie and historian Tessa Dunlop, Countryfile presenters John Craven and Shalena Lowry, TV gardener Diarmuid Gavin and Coast presenter Miranda Krestovnikoff, and Blue Peter hosts-turned-wildlife presenters Helen Skelton and Radzi Chinyanganya. Richard Osman is the man with the answers. 7.45 Atlantis. Jason's discovery has blackened his heart, leaving him careless and foolhardy – so a concerned Pythagoras sets out in search of someone who can help save his friend.

8.30 The National Lottery: In It to Win II. Dale Winton presents the quiz in which up to five contestants answer questions to scoop a big cash prize. Only those in the 'winners' row will have a chance of taking home the loot, so they will need to get all the answers right – as well as a little bit of luck on their side. Including the Lotto and Thunderball draws, presented by Jenni Falconer, with guest Brian Conley.

9.20 Casualty. Connie goes on trial for Alfred's murder. Rita suspects a young girl who cut her wrists is being abused and Max helps a woman cope with her mother, who has dementia.

10.10 BBC News. 10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, which included Liverpool v Queens Park Rangers and Manchester United v West Bromwich Albion; National Lottery Update.

11.55 The Football League Show. 1.05 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.10 BBC News. 2.00 Film: Honeymooner. (2010)

## BBC2

6.15 Film: Gambling House. (1950) 7.35 Film: The Red Beret. (1953) 9.00 The Nature of Britain. (R) 10.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. 12.00 Film: Polizzi: Chels on the Flip. (R) 1.45 Michael Rosen's Storytelling. (R) 2.00 James Martin's Food Map of Britain. (R) 2.20 Timewatch: Inside the Mind of Adolf Hitler. (R) 4.00 The World's Most Photographed. (R) 4.30 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The opening semi-final is set to reach a conclusion. 5.30 Iceland – Land of Ice and Fire: Natural World. (R) 6.30 Dad's Army. First-ever episode of the classic comedy, in which bank manager George Mainwaring assembles a motley crew of volunteers to protect Britain from Nazi invasion. Arthur Lowe stars. (R) 7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the fourth and final session of the second semi-final at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the first player to reach 17 frames will progress to the final. This match produced a thriller last year between Mark Selby and Neil Robertson, with both men aiming to reach their second final, and it was Selby who prevailed 17-15 in an encounter that lasted nearly 12 hours. The commentary team includes Dennis Taylor, Willie Thorne and Stephen Hendry. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

9.30 Film: Quartet. (2012) Three former opera singers prepare for their annual concert to mark Verdi's birthday and raise funds for their retirement home. However, this year, a famous diva has joined the group, and her history with the others threatens the performance. Comedy drama, directed by Dustin Hoffman and starring Maggie Smith, Billy Connolly, Tom Courtenay, Pauline Collins and Michael Gambon.

11.00 QI XL. Extended edition. Noel Fielding, Ross Noble and Colin Lane join regular panelist Alan Davies as host Stephen Fry asks a range of unusual questions on the topic of kit and kaboodle. (R) 11.50 Film: Perfume: The Story of a Murderer. (2006) Period thriller, with Ben Whishaw, Dustin Hoffman and Alan Rickman.

## ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. 6.10 Bottom Knocker Street. (R) 6.20 Bottom Knocker Street. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 7.00 Cannibals. (R) 7.45 Nobo & Monsters. (R) 8.00 Thunderbirds Are Go. 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Weekend. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 11.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 12.30 ITV News: Weather. 12.40 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 1.45 Doc Martin. (R) 2.50 Who's Doing the Dishes? (1988) Comedy, starring John Candy and Dan Aykroyd. 3.50 Regional Programme; Weather. 5.45 ITV News: Weather.

6.00 New You've Been Framed! Unleashed! Painful pranks, below-the-belt mishaps and stunts gone wrong are on the menu in this special edition, as Harry Hill reveals some of the wildest accidents caught on camera by viewers.

7.00 Ninja Warrior UK. Contenders from across the nation test their strength, speed and courage in the fourth of the obstacle-course challenge, all hoping to progress to the semi-finals.

8.00 Britain's Got Talent. Ant and Dec host the fourth audition show, as the judges – Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon – give their verdicts on more of the nation's best, and wannabe, performers. Queuing up to take the stage, acts of all ages and abilities are determined to prove they're worthy of the £250,000 cash prize and a slot at this year's Royal Variety Performance, but while some of them will be deserving, the dream will be over for those whose auditions are cut short by the panel.

9.15 Play to the Whistle. Team captains Bradley Walsh and Frank Lampard are joined by guests including Dermot O'Leary and Romesh Ranganathan. Holly Willoughby hosts the sports-based comedy panel show.

10.00 ITV News: Weather.

10.15 Film: Cliffhanger. (1993) A retired mountain rescue expert is drawn into a battle of wits with a criminal searching for a lost fortune in the Rockies. Thriller, starring Sylvester Stallone and John Lithgow.

12.15 Jackpot247. 3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 3.40 ITV Nightscreen. 4.00 Film: The Last Leg. (R)

## CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 6.40 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 7.05 Challenge Dubai. 8.00 The Morning Line. 9.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 10.00 Ever Ever Ever. (R) 10.30 Fraser. (R) 11.00 Fraser. (R) 11.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.30 Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. (R) 1.30 Channel 4 Racing. Including the 2,000 Guineas at 3.45. 4.15 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.50 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.20 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.50 Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.20 Come Dine with Me. Estate agent Wendy Tinminn hosts the final night in Cumbria, and her guests are in for a shock when they discover something unexpected. (R)

6.45 Channel 4 News.

7.15 For the Love of Cars. Philip Glenister gets to fulfil an ultimate high-octane dream and drive some of Britain's most iconic police cars. Alongside him is former cop Ant Anstead, who demonstrates how to master these versatile vehicles. The duo get to work restoring a Rover SD1 discovered on a driveway in Essex, and push a 1959 Daimler Dart to the limit re-enacting the notorious "Liver Run", accompanied by out-riders on the M11, and through the busy streets of London. (R)

8.15 Film: Men in Black II. (2002) Agent K investigates the unusual life forms of a space-craft and discovers a malevolent alien disguised as a lingerie model is on the verge of destroying humanity. His only hope of stopping her diabolical plot is to restore the memory of his retired partner K – but his former mentor takes more than a little convincing. Sci-fi comedy sequel, directed by Barry Sonnenfeld, starring Will Smith, Tommy Lee Jones, Rosario Dawson, Lara Flynn Boyle, Johnny Knoxville, Rip Torn and Tony Shalhoub.

10.00 Film: Dredd. (2012) Premiere. Sci-fi thriller, starring Karl Urban and Lena Headey.

11.55 Stephen Merchant: Hello Ladies. The Office co-creator's critically acclaimed 2011 stand-up comedy show, based on his experiences of the rocky road to finding love. (R)

12.55 The Last Leg. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.35 The Dog Rescuers. (R) 11.05 Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) 12.00 Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) 12.30 Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) 1.30 Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) 2.00 The Coloured Undercover. (1994) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk. 3.55 Film: Secret Liaison. (2013) Thriller, starring Meredith Monroe. 3.55 The Nightmare Next Door. (R)

6.30 Britain's Horror Homes. A man who turned his house into a fortress after being burgled 10 times, and an engineer who devised a plan to reduce the risk of his property being flooded again. (R)

7.20 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Paul Bohill and Ben Pinner are called in to evict squatters from a residential property, and it soon becomes clear that things are not quite what they seem. Brian O'Shaughnessy and Graham Aldred arrive at a restaurant in north London to collect unpaid rent, but the situation becomes heated and the debtors make accusations to the police that could ruin the High Court enforcement agents' careers. (R)

8.15 5 News Weekend.

8.20 NCIS. A Russian man becomes the prime suspect when a petty officer is found dead, but receives protection from the Department of Homeland Security. (R)

9.10 NCIS: The Team investigates the murder of a lance corporal, whose body has been found in an empty house. The disectors have a number of spurned lovers and a \$2,000 inheritance. Duckie and Gibbs interview one of the dead marine's partners, but disagree over whether she is telling the truth. David McCallum and Mark Harmon star. (R)

10.10 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.

A capped vigilante is killed while trying to protect a homeless man from a brutal gang, and footage of vandals attacking a shop on the same night offer a potential line of inquiry.

11.05 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. A teenage girl is hurt in a fall, but doctors discover she is also suffering from injuries sustained in an attack, setting Benson and Stabler off on a search for her assailant. (R)

12.05 SuperCasino.

## DIGITAL

### BBC Three

7.00 Great Movie Mistakes – Not in 3D 7.10 Top Gear 8.10 Don't Tell the Bride 9.10 Live at the Apollo 10.10 Happy Valley 11.10 Family Guy 1.25 Killer Magic 1.55 Live at the Apollo 2.05 Iatau 3.35 Vodka Diaries 4.00 Close

### BBC Four

7.00 Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures 8.00 Wild China 9.00 Inspector Montalbano 10.45 Len Goodman's Big Band Bonanza 11.45 Top of the Pops: 1980 12.15 Chas & Dave: Last Orders 1.15 Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures 2.15 Wild China 3.15 Close

### ITV2

11.05 Britain's Got Talent 12.20 Britain's Got More Talent 1.25 A Night in with Olly Murs 2.30 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 2.45 Film: Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey (1993) 4.30 Mr Bean 3.40 Mr Bean's Holiday (2003) 7.15 Mr Bean's Holiday 10.15 Celebrity Juice: Keith's Birthday Party 11.00 Britain's Got Talent 12.20 Britain's Got More Talent 1.20 Hell's Kitchen 2.05 Crazy Beaches

### ITV3

11.15 Agatha Christie's Marple 1.20 Film: Once on Sorcery (1996) 3.15 Wyllie 4.25 Film: Columbo: Lady in Waiting (1971) 6.00 Lewis 8.00 Doc Martin 9.00 Foyle's War 11.05 Inspector Morse 1.25 Wife in the Blood

### ITV4

11.25 Pawn Stars 2.00 Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire Live. Coverage of the second stage of the inaugural race. 4.00 Storage Wars 5.00 Storage Wars: Texas 6.00 Shed and Buried 7.25 Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire 8.00 Film: From Russia with Love (1963) 10.25 Film: Mammey (2014) 4.15 The Goldbergs 12.00 How I Met Your Mother 1.00 The Big Bang Theory: It All Started with a Big Bang 1.30 The Big Bang Theory 4.00 Made in Chelsea 5.00 Jane the Virgin 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Film: Coming to America (1983) 11.20 The IT Crowd 12.25 The Inbetweeners 1.25 Rude Tube 2.25 Bodyshockers: Nips, Tucks and Tattoos 3.20 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 3.45 How I Met Your Mother 4.30 Make It or Break It

### Film4

11.00 The Goldbergs 12.00 How I Met Your Mother 1.00 The Big Bang Theory: It All Started with a Big Bang 1.30 The Big Bang Theory 4.00 Made in Chelsea 5.00 Jane the Virgin 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Film: Coming to America (1983) 11.20 The IT Crowd 12.25 The Inbetweeners 1.25 Rude Tube 2.25 Bodyshockers: Nips, Tucks and Tattoos 3.20 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 3.45 How I Met Your Mother 4.30 Make It or Break It

### ITV5

11.00 Bugs Malone (1976) 1.00 Mr Poppers Penguins (2011) 2.55 The Wackiest Ship in the Army (1960) 5.00 Jane the Virgin 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Film: Foot's Gold (2008) 7.15 Airplane! (1980) 9.00 Season of the Witch (2011) 10.45 The Pact (2012) 12.30 Scary Movie 2 (2001) 2.10 Shutter (2008) 3.55 Close

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### CHOICE



#### Live Snooker: The World Championship (BBC2, 7.00pm)

Hazel Irvine presents all the latest action from the second session of the final at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre, where a further nine frames are scheduled to take place. The second session of last year's final took on a similar pattern to the first, with Ronnie O'Sullivan winning five frames to move into a 10-7 lead heading into the final day against Mark Selby. The commentary team features five former world champions in Dennis Taylor, Steve Davis, John Parrott, Ken Doherty and Stephen Hendry. The team will certainly be able to relate to the pressure felt by the players here today. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

### BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast.** **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Match of the Day Extra. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. **1.00** The News. **1.30** The 15 Bigegan Hunt. **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.15** Pets – Wild at Heart. (R) **4.15** Points of View. **4.30** Songs of Praise – School Choir of the Year. **5.15** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **6.05** BBC News. **6.20** Regional Programme. **6.30** Countryfile. The team celebrates spring, as Matt Baker meets orphan lambs in north Wales, Ellie Harrison listens to seasonal sounds and Anita Rani visits an unusual barbecue. Including Weather for the Week Ahead. **7.30** Antiques Roadshow. A visit to Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow, where items include insect specimens, a silver cup from the time of Oliver Cromwell and a clemency sword from the Boer War. **8.30** The C Word. Sheridan Smith stars in this drama based on the blog and book by Lisa Lynch, an account of her life after being diagnosed with breast cancer. Twenty-eight-year-old Lisa's life is going exactly the way she wanted – she has recently married the man of her dreams and her career is on the up. Then out of the blue, she receives a shocking a diagnosis from the doctor that threatens to stop her in her tracks. Right from the start, however, Lisa is determined not to let cancer change her, and begins to write about her experience – unaware of the effect it will have on her life and that of others. Paul Nicholls, Haydn Gwynne and Michael Maloney star. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Tottenham Hotspur v Manchester City at White Hart Lane and Chelsea v Crystal Palace. **11.30** The Football League Show. Manish Basbin presents highlights and all the goals from the final weekend of the regular season in League One, including Colchester United v Preston North End. **12.15** Weather for the Week Ahead.

### BBC2

**6.00** Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) **6.30** Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.30** Countryfile. The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** The Football League Show. (R) **10.10** Saturday Kitchen. (R) **11.10** Back in Time for Dinner. (R) **12.00** Alex Polizzi: Chef on Trial. (R) **1.40** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. **2.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The opening session of the final at the Crucible Theatre. **6.00** Flap It! David Fletcher and Anita Manning search for collectibles at Alnwick Castle in Northumberland, valuing items including Murano glass figurines and a Newcastle shipyard visitors' book. Paul Martin also explores the building's State Rooms, learning about the Percy family's tastes. (R) **7.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. Hazel Irvine presents all the action from the second session of the final at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre, where a further nine frames are scheduled to take place. The second session of last year's final took on a similar pattern to the first, with Ronnie O'Sullivan winning five frames to move into a 10-7 lead heading into the final day against Mark Selby. The commentary team features five former world champions in Dennis Taylor, Steve Davis, John Parrott, Ken Doherty and Stephen Hendry. Subsequent programmes subject to change. **11.00** Who Dares. Anna puts herself forward for the newly advertised role of Head of Better, and rumours circulate that Neighbours anchor Evan Davis is to be a contestant on Strictly Come Dancing. (R) **11.30** Film: The Accidental Husband. (2008) A radio host planning her wedding discovers she is already legally married to a man she has never met. Romantic comedy, with Uma Thurman, Colin Firth and Jeffrey Dean Morgan. **12.50** Sign Zone: Countryfile. From the Peak District, with items on making the countryside accessible to the disabled, the National Search and Rescue Dog Association, the Pennine Way and preventing hayfever. (R) **1.00** Holby City. Annabelle and Zara disagree with Guy over a special case, a new pair of shoes gets Sereno into an embarrassing situation with a new admirer and Mo arranges to meet her real father. (R)

### ITV

**6.00** CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Cannimals. (R) **7.15** Stoopty. (R) **7.30** The Big Picture. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weather. **8.30** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.45** Zack and Quack. **8.50** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **9.00** LazyTown. (R) **9.45** Dora and Friends. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Cowboy Builders & Dodge Johns. (R) **11.25** Cowboy Builders & Dodge Johns. (R) **12.20** Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) **1.20** Film: Blue Steel. (1999) Comedy, starring Martin Lawrence. **3.05** Film: Zathura: A Space Adventure. (2005) Family sci-fi adventure, starring Josh Hutcherson and Jonah Bobo. **5.00** Film: Holes. (2003) Family adventure, starring Shia LaBeouf. **7.05** 5 News Weekend. **7.10** Film: Legally Blonde. (2001) A seemingly ditzy teenager is heartbroken when her boyfriend dumps her because he thinks she is not intelligent enough to help his political career. To prove him wrong she enrolls at Harvard, but finds herself out of her depth as other students treat her as a rumoured sanctuary in Los Angeles, but she discovers she has walked into a deadly trap and must once again battle the hordes of the living dead. Action horror sequel, starring Mila Jovovich, Ali Larter and Wentworth Miller. **11.05** Film: Gamer. (2009) A convict is forced to take part in a violent real-life video game using mind-control technology, but plans to escape. Sci-fi thriller, starring Gerard Butler and Michael C. Hall. **12.45** Jackass. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. Dr Opong sees a patient who is terrified he might have cancer. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (1986) **9.00** Film: Multiplicity (1996) **9.00** Men in Black 3 (2012) **11.10** Monsters (2010) **1.40** I Want That Car. **2.30** Whisker Wars 2.55 (2014) **3.10** Close Shave. (R)

### CHANNEL 4

**6.20** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.45** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** The Big Picture. (R) **9.30** Weather. **10.20** Make Way for Norton. (R) **7.35** Post Patrol. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.15** Zack and Quack. **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.45** Jelli Jamm. (R) **9.00** LazyTown. (R) **9.45** Dora and Friends. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Cowboy Builders & Dodge Johns. (R) **11.25** Cowboy Builders & Dodge Johns. (R) **12.20** Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) **1.20** Film: Blue Steel. (1999) Comedy, starring Martin Lawrence. **3.05** Film: Zathura: A Space Adventure. (2005) Family sci-fi adventure, starring Josh Hutcherson and Jonah Bobo. **5.00** Film: Holes. (2003) Family adventure, starring Shia LaBeouf. **7.05** 5 News Weekend. **7.10** Film: Legally Blonde. (2001) A seemingly ditzy teenager is heartbroken when her boyfriend dumps her because he thinks she is not intelligent enough to help his political career. To prove him wrong she enrolls at Harvard, but finds herself out of her depth as other students treat her as a rumoured sanctuary in Los Angeles, but she discovers she has walked into a deadly trap and must once again battle the hordes of the living dead. Action horror sequel, starring Mila Jovovich, Ali Larter and Wentworth Miller. **11.05** Film: Gamer. (2009) A convict is forced to take part in a violent real-life video game using mind-control technology, but plans to escape. Sci-fi thriller, starring Gerard Butler and Michael C. Hall. **12.45** Jackass. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. Dr Opong sees a patient who is terrified he might have cancer. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (1986) **9.00** Film: Multiplicity (1996) **9.00** Men in Black 3 (2012) **11.10** Monsters (2010) **1.40** I Want That Car. **2.30** Whisker Wars 2.55 (2014) **3.10** Close Shave. (R)

### CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.35** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Mr. Mao. **7.00** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.15** The Big Picture. (R) **7.30** Day Break. (R) **8.20** Make Way for Norton. (R) **7.35** Post Patrol. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.15** Zack and Quack. **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.45** Jelli Jamm. (R) **9.00** LazyTown. (R) **9.45** Dora and Friends. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Cowboy Builders & Dodge Johns. (R) **11.25** Cowboy Builders & Dodge Johns. (R) **12.20** Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) **1.20** Film: Blue Steel. (1999) Comedy, starring Martin Lawrence. **3.05** Film: Zathura: A Space Adventure. (2005) Family sci-fi adventure, starring Josh Hutcherson and Jonah Bobo. **5.00** Film: Holes. (2003) Family adventure, starring Shia LaBeouf. **7.05** 5 News Weekend. **7.10** Film: Legally Blonde. (2001) A seemingly ditzy teenager is heartbroken when her boyfriend dumps her because he thinks she is not intelligent enough to help his political career. To prove him wrong she enrolls at Harvard, but finds herself out of her depth as other students treat her as a rumoured sanctuary in Los Angeles, but she discovers she has walked into a deadly trap and must once again battle the hordes of the living dead. Action horror sequel, starring Mila Jovovich, Ali Larter and Wentworth Miller. **11.05** Film: Gamer. (2009) A convict is forced to take part in a violent real-life video game using mind-control technology, but plans to escape. Sci-fi thriller, starring Gerard Butler and Michael C. Hall. **12.45** Jackass. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. Dr Opong sees a patient who is terrified he might have cancer. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (1986) **9.00** Film: Multiplicity (1996) **9.00** Men in Black 3 (2012) **11.10** Monsters (2010) **1.40** I Want That Car. **2.30** Whisker Wars 2.55 (2014) **3.10** Close Shave. (R)

### DIGITAL

**BBC Three** **7.00** Live Diving. Coverage of the World Series event in London. **8.05** Film: Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (2008) **10.00** Tatau 10.45 Family Guy 11.30 American Dad! 11.55 Family Guy 12.15 Tatau 1.00 Teen Model Factory. **9.00** Reggie Yates' Extreme Russia 1.55 Killer Magic 2.25 Flat TV 2.45 Tatau 3.00 Killer Magic 4.00 Close **BBC Four** **7.00** 10 Things You Didn't Know About Tsunamis 8.00 National Gallery: A Film by Frederick Wiseman 11.55 Imagine – Rod Stewart: Can't Stop Me Now 12.20 Rod Stewart at the BBC 1.20 BBC Young Dancer 2015 2.20 10 Things You Didn't Know About Tsunamis 3.20 Close **ITV2** **12.00** Take Me Out 1.10 Scorpion 2.05 Film: Scroobie-Doo (2002) **3.55** Film: Horrible Histories 11.55 Inspector Morse 7.00 The Best of Britain's Got Talent 8.00 You've Been Framed! Yearbook 9.00 Film: Knocked Up (2007) **11.35** Film: The Bone Ultimatum (2007) **1.45** Moon 2.30 Teleshopping **ITV4** **11.55** Wycliffe 1.00 Film: Columbo: Lady in Waiting (1971) **2.40** Lewis 4.45 A Touch of Frost 6.50 Inspector Morse 9.00 The Best of the Royal Variety 10.00 Wycliffe 11.10 Film: The Color Purple (1985) **2.05** Secret Smile 3.30 ITV3 Nightscreen 3.40 Emmerdale **ITV5** **11.50** Paws Stars 12.45 Film: Teletubbies (1987) **3.00** Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire 1. Coverage of the third and final stage of the inaugural race. **5.00** Storage Wars 7.00 Texas 7.00 Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire 8.00 Film: Police Academy 3: Back to Training (1986) **9.45** Film: National Lampoon's Vacation (1983) **11.50** Film: Buried (2010) **1.40** I Want That Car 2.30 Whisker Wars 2.55 (2014) **3.10** Close Shave. (R) **4.00** Made in Chelsea 1.00 Revenge 2.00 Jane the Virgin 3.00 The Goldbergs 4.00 The Big Bang Theory 8.00 Film: St Trinian's (2007) **10.00** The IT Crowd 11.00 The Inbetweeners 12.10 Rue Tube 1.15 Virtually Famous **Film4** **11.00** Carry On Up the Khyber (1968) **1.00** Mighty Joe Young (1998) **3.15** Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer (2011) **5.00** Jumper (2008) **6.45** Multiplicity (1996) **9.00** Men in Black 3 (2012) **11.10** Monsters (2010) **1.00** 20,000 Days on Earth (2014) **3.10** Close

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## FILM CHOICES

## MONDAY

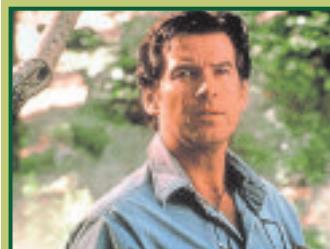
Lord of War, Channel 5, 10.55pm

A Ukrainian immigrant in New York sells guns to local mobsters, and when he gains access to a vast supply of Soviet weaponry at the end of the Cold War he expands his operation overseas – but makes the mistake of doing business with an African warlord. Thriller, starring Nicolas Cage, Ethan Hawke, Jared Leto, Bridget Moynahan, Eamonn Walker and Ian Holm. (2005)

## TUESDAY

=Far and Away, Channel 5, 11pm

Penniless Irish farmer Joseph seeks revenge on the cruel landowner who drove him from his home. However, the landlord's daughter, desperate to escape her family, persuades him to join her in seeking their fortune in America. Romantic drama set in the 1890s, starring Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman. (1992)



Dante's Peak, Friday, ITV, 10.50pm

## WEDNESDAY

A Few Best Men, BBC1, 11.20pm

An Englishman falls in love with a woman he meets on holiday in Australia, and asks her to marry him. However, he then makes the mistake of bringing three friends over to be his best men. Comedy, starring Xavier Samuel, Laura Brent and Kris Marshall. (2011)

## THURSDAY

Kinky Boots, BBC2, 10.30pm

A man inherits a struggling shoe factory, but salvation arrives when a Soho cabaret singer comes up with a plan for the business to manufacture specialist footwear for drag artists. However, the stunned workforce has to be won over, and the new designs prove their worth at a high-profile fashion show. Comedy drama, starring Chiwetel Ejiofor. (2005)

## FRIDAY

Dante's Peak, ITV, 10.50pm

A volcanologist's suspicions that a long-dormant volcano is about to erupt turn out to be true, prompting him to race against time to save the community standing in its way – and clash with local government officials. Disaster movie, starring Pierce Brosnan and Linda Hamilton. (1997)

## Shocking case leaves a race against time

**D**o we really need another new police drama? Well, if it's written by Paul Abbott, the man who gave us Shameless and State of the Play, then yes, we probably do.

He certainly thinks that his new series, *No Offence*, is filling a gap in the TV market.

The writer explains: "No Offence came after searching for a concept that would match a Shameless landscape, which is enormous. I love cop shows. I love comedies, and nobody has found a blended set of ingredients that make that work and feel like the cop series I wanted to make."

Before fans of E4's import *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* start raising objections, Abbott makes it clear that his series can't really be called a sitcom.

"No Offence is proudly a procedural drama, but it's not what I started writing. I thought we were getting away with writing a comedy in my head, but it was just too big and eventually it got squeezed all

the way back down to near real life but not real life – it's heightened by two millimetres – and I think it is those two millimetres that define the personality of *No Offence*.

"You can't call it a comedy, as it's as dark as can be... and it gets darker and darker."

He adds: "No Offence is trying to fit a square peg in a round hole and we've done it beautifully, with a set of ingredients that don't look like they should belong together, but they do."

As it's no ordinary police show, it makes sense that the team are no ordinary coppers. Led by the very capable, but slightly unhinged DI Vivienne Deering (Joanna Scanlan), and her right-hand woman DC Dinah Kowalska (Elaine Cassidy) and DS Joy Freers (Alexandra Roach), they work some very mean streets, which would leave lesser officers considering a change of career, but they largely take in their stride.

Abbott says: "I love watching people being good at their job. I remember I used to watch *Casualty* when all they did was complain about the agency nurses and I'd shout 'go get another job.' I don't want to watch people moaning about their occupation on TV – it's like being haunted by your eight-hour shift isn't it?"

However, in this first episode, it looks like even this apparently unshockable team – which also includes Will Mellor as DC Spike Tanner and Colin Salmon as Det Supt Darren MacLaren – are about to be confronted with one of their most difficult cases as Kowalska notices a pattern connecting the deaths of two young women. It seems the team could be dealing with a serial killer – and a third girl has gone missing...

Again, it may not sound original, but that's not really the point.

Abbott says: "I don't write for shock value. I think all crimes have been seen on television before, whether on the *News At Ten* or in a drama. But *No Offence* isn't about whether you've seen them before, it's about the attitude towards them. We've done it with such dignity and humanity."

Will Mellor stars in *No Offence*, Tuesday, Channel 4, 9pm

## BEST OF THE REST

## MONDAY

**How the Other Half Eat**  
Channel 4, 7.30pm

Food shopping these days isn't simply a case of nipping down to the supermarket and picking up whatever takes your fancy. Instead, there's a startling array of products on offer, from no frills items that may lack a little finesse, to the most expensive, top-of-the-range produce whose packaging is almost a work of art in itself. And then there's a heap of stuff in between. This new series follows two families who live close to each other, but whose shopping and eating habits are miles apart. They change places for four days, during which they'll sample the food usually eaten by each other's families. Once the experiment is over, we'll discover whether they go back to their old ways, or change their approach for good.

## VE Day: Remembering Victory

BBC1, 8.30pm

On Friday May 8, it will be 70 years since Winston Churchill announced the Second World War in Europe was over, prompting Britain to throw the biggest street party the country has ever seen. David Attenborough, Bruce Forsyth, Miriam Margolyes and June Whitfield are just a few of the well-known figures sharing their memories of the

end of the conflict. Narrated by Julie Walters, with contributions from others including Johnny Ball, Honor Blackman, Jilly Cooper, John Craven, Cleo Laine, Kenny Lynch, Michael Parkinson, Leslie Phillips, Anne Reid, Esther Rantzen, Patrick Stewart and Una Stubbs. VE Day: Live from the Cenotaph is on Friday on BBC One at 2.45pm.

## TUESDAY

**24 Hours in the Past**  
BBC1, 9pm

Living reality documentary in which six celebrities experience the working lives of the poor in Victorian times. There's no rest for the unlucky volunteers after the filth of the dustyard as they are sent to work at a recreated coaching inn – the 19th-century equivalent of the motorway service station. Alistair McGowan, Ann Widdecombe, Zoe Lucker, Colin Jackson, Tyger Drew-Honey and Miquita Oliver find themselves constantly against the clock as there are horses to be groomed, coaches to be cleaned, guests to be fed, sheets to be laundered and chamber pots to be emptied. Will they all have the stamina to survive the long hours and relentless grind – especially with two further days to go?

**Wednesday**  
**Inspector George Gently**  
BBC1, 8pm

All good things must come to an end, but that idea won't make it any easier for Gently to deal with losing Bacchus. His right-hand man has finally been promoted, which means he will need a new sergeant. But for now, Gently's attention is taken by the discovery of a female GP's corpse on the moors. She suffered from mood swings and motor neurone disease, which makes the detective's colleagues think she committed suicide, but Gently is convinced she was murdered – and her estranged husband becomes the prime suspect. Feisty WPC Rachel Coles grew up in the area covered by the GP's practice, and helps with the inquiry – surely she would make the ideal replacement for Bacchus?

24 Hours in the Past, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

**Thursday**  
**Shark**  
BBC1, 8.55pm

New series. Wildlife documentary venturing below the waves to examine the ocean predators' behaviour. The first film reveals their many different hunting methods, from blacktip sharks gathering in huge packs and herding fish into baitballs, to bassel wobbegongs, which ambush their prey. Other highlights include Greenland sharks, which live under the arctic ice, whitetip reef sharks – arguably the masters of night-time hunting – and the great white, shown stalking fur seals off the coast of South Africa.

**Friday**  
**Secrets of Great British Castles**  
Channel 5, 8pm

Dan Jones explores the history of Carrickfergus Castle in Co Antrim, one of the most ancient castles in Northern Ireland and a stronghold key to understanding the tempestuous relationship between Britain and Ireland. Dan travels to Rathlin island, where he reveals how hundreds of women and children were massacred in the name of Elizabeth I, and visits the tomb of former governor Arthur Chichester, who began a new colonisation strategy using scorched earth tactics and laid waste to much of the land surrounding the town.

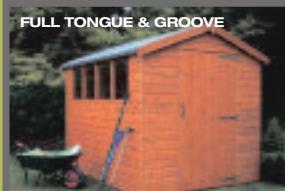
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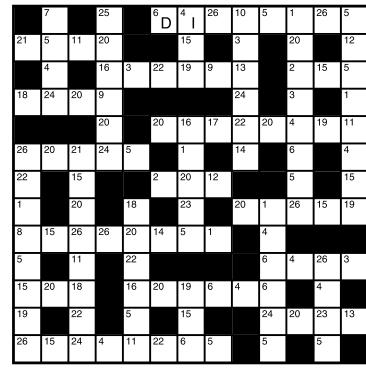
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## BRAIN GYM No.317

### Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	J	B	3	Q	4	5	6	K	I	R	N	F	G	S	U	P	E
14	T	M	Y	H	D	O	X	C	W	L	A	V	Z				

### Quiz

1. Who is credited with discovering penicillin in 1928?
2. In which country are the Queen's bodyguards the Royal Company of Archers?
3. What was IRA man Dominic McGlinchey's nickname?
4. Who wrote Strangers on a Train?
5. Which bird has honey and rough-legged varieties?
6. Which country was formerly known as the Gold Coast?
7. Which skier is known as La Bomba?
8. Who wrote Our Man in Havana?
9. Which river divides Kentish Men from Men of Kent?
10. Which composer's Adagietto from his 5th Symphony was used in the film Death in Venice?

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### Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

#### Cryptic Clues:

##### Across

1. The way the tour is diverted to the East (5)
8. Becomes snarled up at corner in back-street (7)
9. An insult to a seaside promenade, we hear (7)
10. The French travel south to Nigerian port (5)
12. You could find these right in the main shopping centre (4,6)
15. Right-handed key (6,4)
18. This coin was a sovereign (5)
- 19 & 13Dn. This will deceive the pupils (7,8)
21. Individual after different name for a flower (7)
22. Get to the bottom and connect the pipe-line (5)
14. Normal, neat decorative arrangement (10)
16. Did some signalling, but became weary (7)
17. Complete black suit needed by one who goes round the course (3,2,5)
19. See 19 Across
20. Declines to put rubbish on the top of the scrap-heap (7)
22. Mob round the East whooped in triumph (6)
23. Show disdain for one who recognises (5)
24. Betty Perkins to do some secretarial work inside (4)

##### Down

1. Normal, neat decorative arrangement (10)
2. They went round the necks of thugs, we hear (5)
3. Famous fiddler in Stainer oratorio (4)
4. What the needle produces is an acute pain (6)
5. Take out of gear (8)
6. Did some signalling, but became weary (7)
11. Complete black suit needed by one who goes round the course (3,2,5)
12. You could find these right in the main shopping centre (4,6)
13. See 19 Across
14. Declines to put rubbish on the top of the scrap-heap (7)
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24. Complete black suit needed by one who goes round the course (3,2,5)

### Sudoku

1	2	3	4	5	6			
7			8					
9				10		11		
	12	13						
15			16			17		
18			19	20				
21			22					

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

4	9	8	1	3	5	1	7	6
7	6	1	9	8	4	5	3	2
5	2	3	6	1	7	9	8	4
3	7	4	2	3	8	1	6	5
9	8	6	5	7	4	2	1	3
2	5	1	3	6	8	7	4	1
8	7	4	1	5	2	6	9	3
1	3	6	7	4	9	2	5	8

#### Quick Clues:

##### Across

7. Precept (5)
8. Flood (7)
9. A month (7)
10. Sugary (5)
12. Affirm (10)
15. Emphasis (10)
18. Lock (5)
19. Relations (7)
21. Dirty (7)
22. Goodbye (5)
1. Book-keeper (10)
2. Join (5)
3. Door handle (4)
4. Famine (6)
5. Expectation (8)
6. Indefinite (7)
11. Huge (10)
13. Ominous (8)
14. Shriek (7)
16. Harsh (6)
17. Coach (5)
20. Tidy (4)

##### Down

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Restrain; 8 Air; 9 Incantation; 11 Artist; 12 Posts; 13 Canvas; 15 Prefer; 17 Avast; 18 Celsius; 20 Tuition fees; 22 Ewe; 23 Elephants; Down: 2 Eon; 3 Rings; 4 Images; 5 Triple; 6 Sons of Nine; 7 Treasure; 10 Counterfeiter; 11 Archetype; 14 Grid; 16 Barber; 19 Lunch; 21 Eat. QUICK - Across: 1 Prosthetic; 8 Let; 9 Storm-signal; 11 Builder; 12 Baste; 13 Idiocy; 15 Repose; 17 Knave; 18 Patriot; 20 Intercepted; 22 Set; 23 Respected; Down: 2 Rat; 3 Timid; 4 Aviary; 5 Ennoble; 6 Illusionist; 7 Statement; 10 Originality; 11 Briskness; 14 Creator; 16 Sports; 19 Theme; 21 Ere.

### Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

578 gives a nocturnal mammal,  
98678 gives a kind of weasel,  
31249 gives insects.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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### PUZZLES

### Thinking space

# Leather goods firm closure on way as part of relocation

A LEATHER goods firm that has been in Walsall for more than 90 years is to close and relocate to Somerset. Daines & Hathaway is shutting down its factory in Bridgeman Street in the next couple of months, with production shifting to Yeovil to the base of its parent group Pittards.

Fifteen workers are based at the factory in Walsall. They have all been offered the opportunity to make the move, although a redundancy package has been available.

# Trio of constables awarded by chief for blaze heroics

THREE West Midlands Police officers have been hailed for their courageous actions during a major fire in the Black Country last year. Police Constables Andrew Pond, Helen Barnett and Ben Cooper rescued four people from a blazing building after a late-night chip-pan supper sparked a fire in Walsall.

The trio were in the Chuchery area in the early hours of July 10 when they heard screams from a flat behind Rowley Street.

They found smoke billowing from a flat and a woman trying to escape the flames by clambering through a small bathroom window. Pc Barnett tended to the woman while Pc Pond and Pc Cooper, crawled inside and managed to pull another woman and two men to safety after finding them trapped in a bedroom.

The occupants – women aged 42 and 48, and men aged 41 and 46 – were taken to hospital suffering the effects of smoke inhalation but made a full recovery.

And at a West Midlands Police awards ceremony the heroic three have now been presented with Chief Constable's Awards in recognition of their bravery.

Pc Pond said: "I saw through the kitchen window that the fire had taken hold and smoke had filled the flat. I shouted up on my radio for the fire service to attend but it was a case of every second counts so I knew I had to act before they arrived."

"I tried pushing open the front door open but it was locked so I grabbed a door 'enforcer' – like a small battering ram – from our patrol car and smashed my way inside.

"I crawled along the floor to stay below the smoke but it was so thick it was hard to see...I got to the kitchen where I could see flames coming from the cooker."

"I used a small fire extinguisher from our police car but the flames were too big. The job well done."



Pcs Andrew Pond, Helen Barnett and Ben Cooper with chief constable Chris Sims

woman was still screaming that her friends were inside. Ben joined us and we crawled back inside to the bedroom where we found three more people and pulled them out of the flat."

Fire investigators concluded the blaze –

which largely destroyed the flat – had been caused by a chip pan being left unattended.

Pc Barnett, added: "The fire investigation said that without our help the occupants may not have survived; that's what policing is all about, keeping our communities safe and protecting the public, and all three of us went home after that shift knowing it was a job well done."

"I used a small fire extinguisher from our police car but the flames were too big. The job well done."

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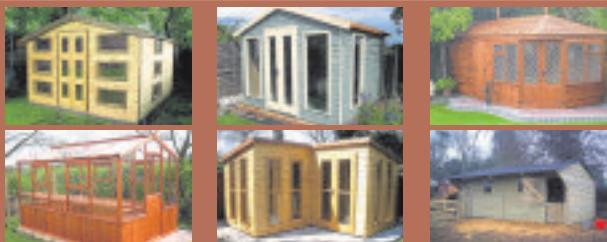
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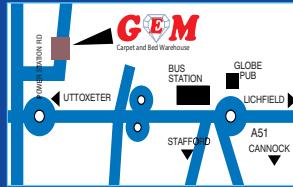
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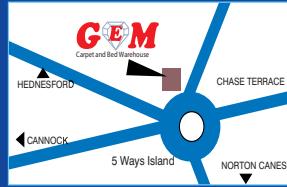


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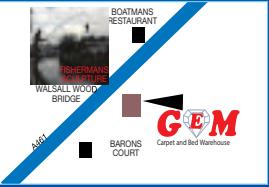


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It has a porch, spacious reception hall, WC, lounge with a multi-fuel burning stove on a granite hearth, dining room with French doors, an extended L-shaped farmhouse kitchen with a timber stable door, conservatory, three bedrooms and a bathroom, detached garage/gym, workshop area, large driveway with ample parking and a good-sized rear garden. Call Marrion & Co on 01922 404446 or visit [www.marrion.co.uk](http://www.marrion.co.uk)



## Modernised property has a total of four bedrooms

SUPERBLY presented, this four-bedrooomed detached property in Castle Drive, Willenhall lies has been modernised by the current owners and lies on the ever popular Summer Hayes Estate.

It is for sale through L&S Prestige Estates at £165,000.

With double glazing and central heating it has a lounge, kitchen/diner, WC and bedroom (which could alternatively be used as a dining room or study), three further bedrooms and a "Jack and Jill" bathroom, a block paved driveway, a 32ft tandem garage and a garden with a block paved patio.

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## Refurbished home is ideal as a potential first time buy

HAVING undergone a full scheme of refurbishment, this traditional three-bedroomed semi-detached home in Romsey Road, Fordhouses, Wolverhampton is ideal for the first time buyer.

It is for sale through Connells at £135,000 with no chain.

With off road parking and a good-sized garden it has a canopy porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, re-fitted kitchen, three bedrooms and a re-fitted bathroom.

It has been rewired, re-plastered, has a new kitchen and new bathroom and has been re-carpeted and re-floored.

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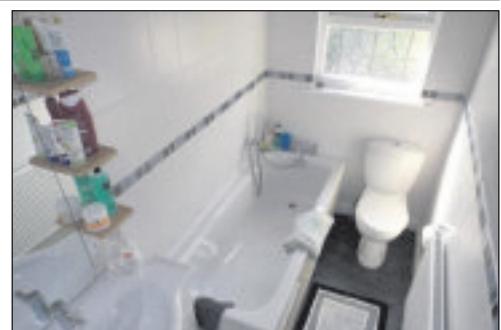
## Extended and much improved town home



THOUGHTFULLY improved and extended by the current owners, this three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Calder Avenue, Walsall includes a good sized kitchen/dining room with Velux windows.

It is for sale through Dixons Estate Agents at £190,000. Calder Avenue, Walsall, West Midlands. It has an entrance hall with understairs cupboard, a dining room with a bay window, a lounge with feature fireplace, a kitchen with patio doors opening out to the garden, a shower room, three bedrooms (two with wardrobes), a bathroom with a modern white suite.

For further information contact Dixons Estate Agents on 01922 432011 or visit [www.dixonsestateagents.co.uk](http://www.dixonsestateagents.co.uk)



# K.Stuart Swash

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Town Centre – Garage / Storage Unit

Area of Land in Residential Location

Modern Workshop Unit in countryside location

Parades of Lock-Up Garages

*Further entries invited*

*Please Register for Catalogue*

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OnTheMarket.com



Paul Marrion - Partner



Kathy Marrion - Partner



Sherringham Drive, The Hamlet, Essington

Occupying a choice head of cul-de-sac location on this attractive and exclusive development known as The Hamlet, just off Sneyd Lane, this much improved and tastefully appointed chalet style detached house is a must to view! The gas centrally heated and PVCu double glazed accommodation briefly includes:- Canopy

£269,950



Porch, Entrance Hall, Guests Cloaks/WC, Spacious Lounge, Formal Dining Room, Conservatory, Re-fitted Kitchen, Utility Area, Four Excellent Bedrooms, Re-fitted Family Bathroom/WC with separate Shower compartment, 2 Car side by side Garages, Beautifully Maintained Gardens



Rosewood Drive, Coppice Farm, Willenhall

- Mid terrace house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, kitchen
- 2 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Parking and gardens
- SORRY NO DSS, PETS OR SMOKERS
- £180 reference fee applies

£560



Rosewood Gardens, Essington

A well presented and extended semi detached house is offered for sale, having the benefit of gas central heating and double glazing (where specified), the property briefly comprises:-

£154,950



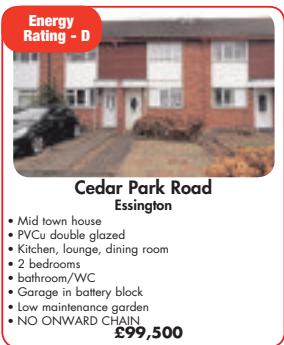
Porch, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Family Room, Landing, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom/WC, Garage and Rear Garden



Woodcroft Court, 27 Hawbush Road, Walsall

- Ground Floor Apartment
- Lounge, Kitchen Area
- 2 Bedrooms, Shower room/WC
- Communal Gardens
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Allocated Parking
- No Onward Chain

£65,000



Cedar Park Road, Essington

- Mid town house
- PVCu double glazed
- Kitchen, lounge, dining room
- 2 bedrooms
- bathroom/WC
- Garage in battery block
- Low maintenance garden
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

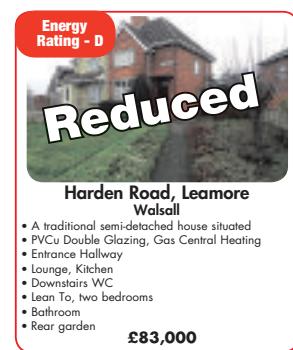
£99,500



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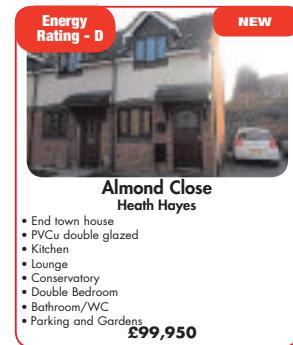
[www.marrion.co.uk](http://www.marrion.co.uk)



Harden Road, Leamore, Walsall

- A traditional semi-detached house situated
- PVCu Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating
- Entrance Hallway
- Lounge, Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Lean To, two bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Rear garden

£83,000



Almond Close, Heath Hayes

- End town house
- PVCu double glazed
- Kitchen
- Lounge
- Conservatory
- Double Bedroom
- Bathroom/WC
- Parking and Gardens

£99,500



Meadow Grange Drive, Coppice Farm, Willenhall

This property has motivated sellers, and is competitively priced for a quick sale. This immaculately presented four bedroom detached family home occupies a commanding corner plot, at the head of a cul-de-sac, situated in a sought after location. From the moment you enter this family home, you can not fail to be impressed by the quality and spaciousness of the

£285,000



internal appointments which briefly comprises of:- Enclosed Porch, Entrance Hall/Stairs, Lounge, Study, Spacious 'L' Shaped Kitchen/Diner, Utility Room, Guests Cloaks/WC, Four Good Sized Bedrooms, the Master with En-Suite, WC, Modern Family Bathroom/WC, Detached Double Garage, Secluded Rear Garden, Large In and Out Block Paved Driveway



The Primroses, Yew Tree, Walsall

- Modern Mid Town house
- Gas Centrally Heated, Double Glaze
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge, Kitchen
- Cloakroom WC
- Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- Rear garden

£120,000



Sutton Road, Walsall

Offered for sale is this traditionally styled 3 bedroom detached family home, situated on a substantial plot, in a sought after location. The property is in need of some updating, but already benefits from PVCu double glazing, gas central heating (where specified) and cavity wall insulation.

£274,950



This is an ideal 'project' property and must be viewed in order to appreciate the following accommodation:- Enclosed Storm Porch, Hallway, 2 Reception Rooms, Extended Kitchen, Landing, Three Good Sized Bedrooms, Shower Room/WC and a Large Rear Garden



Shaws Lane, Great Wyrley

- Detached bungalow
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, kitchen
- Conservatory
- 2 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Garage, driveway/gardens
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£190,000



Swynnerton Drive, Essington

- Modern detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge/diner, kitchen
- conservatory
- 4 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Garage, driveway, gardens
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£269,000



Sanstone Road, Bloxwich

- Detached Bungalow on large corner plot,
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Shower Room
- Conservatory, Detached Garage
- Front and Rear Garden

£274,950



Sanstone Road, Bloxwich

- Individually designed detached house
- Gas centrally heated a fully double glazed
- Through lounge/dining room
- Fitted kitchen, utility
- 3 bedrooms
- family bathroom/WC
- Double garage, driveway a gardens
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£290,000



Hobnock Road, Essington

- Character Detached Cottage
- Enclosed Storm Porch
- Lounge, Sitting Area, Dining Area
- Kitchen, Downstairs Bathroom
- Three Bedrooms, Shower Room
- Garage and a Large Rear Garden
- Potential to Extend (Subject to planning permission)
- Large Rear Garden

£299,950

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**GEORGE ROSE GARDENS, DARLASTON**



**FOR SALE**

£160,000

Two Bed Detached Bungalow. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Guest W.C, Bvestibule, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge/Diner, Loft Room And Family Bathroom. G/C/H. Driveway & Garage. Extensive Gardens. Requires Modernisation.

**BROADWATERS RD, DARLASTON**

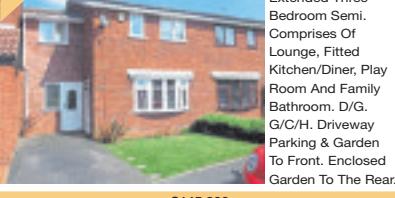


**FOR SALE**

£77,995

Two Bed Semi. Comprises Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, & Family Bathroom. D/G. Landscaped Rear Gardens. Ideal First Time Buy Or Buy To Let. Viewing Advised!

**COPPIE FARM**



**FOR SALE**

£145,000

Extended Three Bedroom Semi. Comprises Of Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Play Room And Family Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. Driveway Parking & Garden To Front. Enclosed Garden To The Rear.

**POOL HAYES**



**FOR SALE**

£280,000

Four Bed Detached. Comprises Of Porch, Entrance Hall, Sitting Room, 24ft Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Utility & Ground Floor W.C. First Floor Has Bathroom & W.C. Two Driveways & Garages. Extensive Rear Gardens.

**ST ANNES RD, WILLENHALL**



**FOR SALE**

£74,995

Two Bed Mid Terraced. Comprises Of Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, First Floor Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Detached Garage, Garden. Great First Time Buy Or Buy To Let.

**LISTER STREET, WILLENHALL**



**FOR SALE**

£89,995

Immaculate Two Bed Ground Floor Apartment. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom, D/G & E/H. Outside There Is A Secure Gated Parking Space And Garage. MUST VIEW!

**HORTON PLACE, DARLASTON**



**FOR SALE**

£90,000

Three Bed Mid Town House. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Ground Floor Bathroom, Separate W.C And First Floor Shower Room. D/G, G/C/H. Front & Rear Gardens. Off Road Parking.

**WALKERS FOLD, WILLENHALL**



**FOR SALE**

£100,000

Two Bed Mid Town House. Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Kitchen, Lounge/Diner And Modern Shower Room. Outside Are Two Allocated Parking Spaces & Rear Garden.

**BENTLEY WHARF, WILLENHALL**



**FOR SALE**

£100,000

Well Presented Two Bed Ground Floor Canalside Apartment. Comprises Lounge, Open Plan Kitchen/Diner, Balcony Offering Canal Views, Bathroom, G/C/H, D/G. Community Gardens & Allocated Parking.

**BLOXWICH RD STH, W'HALL**



**FOR SALE**

£100,000

Well Presented Two Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory And Family Bathroom. D/G, G/C/H. Block Paved Driveway To Front & Enclosed Garden To Rear. GREAT FTB!

**THE CRESCENT, WILLENHALL**



**FOR SALE**

£110,000

Modern Two Bed Semi. Comprises Lounge With Open Plan Staircase, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory And Family Bathroom. D/G, G/C/H. Block Paved Driveway. Enclosed Rear Garden.

**EDINBURGH AVE, BENTLEY**



**FOR SALE**

£112,500

Two Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen & Ground Floor W.C. 1st Floor Bathroom. D/G & G/C/H. Off Road Parking To The Front & Enclosed Garden To The Rear.

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**SHORT HEATH**



**FOR SALE**

£114,995

Three Bedroom Semi Detached. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge/Diner, Modern Fitted Kitchen & Family Bathroom. D/G & G/C/H. Driveaway & Garage. Front & Rear Gardens.

**REEDSWOOD**



**FOR SALE**

£114,995

Three Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Guest W.C & Family Bathroom. D/G, G/C/H. Detached Garage. Driveway To Front & Side. Enclosed Garden To Rear.

**ALBION ROAD, WILLENHALL**



**FOR SALE**

£115,000

Three Bed Mid Terrace. Comprises Of Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom With Bath & Shower And First Floor W.C Room. D/G, G/C/H. Rear Garden.

**SHERLOCK CLOSE, W'HALL**



**FOR SALE**

£119,950

Well Presented Two Bed End Townhouse. Comprises Entrance Hall, Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Conservatory, Bathroom, D/G, G/C/H. Block Paved Driveway. Enclosed Garden To The Rear.

**LUCKNOW ROAD, W'HALL**



**FOR SALE**

£112,000

Immaculately Presented and Extended Two Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, D/G & C/H, Off Road Parking To The Front & Off Road Parking To The Rear. Generous Garden To Rear.

**PORTOBELLO**



**FOR SALE**

£130,000

Three Bed Semi Detached. Comprises Of Porch, Entrance Hall, Through Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen & Family Bathroom. D/G, G/C/H. Paved Fore Garden And Extensive Gardens To Rear.

**STOKES AVENUE, WILLENHALL**



**FOR SALE**

£130,000

Two Bedroom Detached Bungalow. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Conservatory, Ground Floor Bedroom, Bathroom. D/G, G/C/H. Off Road Parking. Generous Plot. MUST VIEW!

**BIRCHTREE HOLLOW, WILLENHALL**



**FOR SALE**

£155,000

Extended Five Bed Semi Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Separate Utility Room, W.C, Sitting Room, Family Bathroom. D/G, G/C/H. Block Paved Driveway To Fore & An Enclosed Garden To Rear.

**SHORT HEATH**



**FOR SALE**

£185,000

Three Bed Detached Bungalow With One Bed Annex. Comprises Of Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Family Bathroom. The Annex Comprises Of Lounge, Kitchen/Diner & Bedroom With En-Suite Shower Room.

**MILL LANE, WILLENHALL**



**FOR SALE**

£270,000

Three Bed Detached Bungalow With One Bed Annex. Comprises Of Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Family Bathroom. The Annex Comprises Of Lounge, Kitchen/Diner & Bedroom With En-Suite Shower Room.

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**Reduced**  
Lister Street  
Willenhall

OFFERS AROUND: £95,000



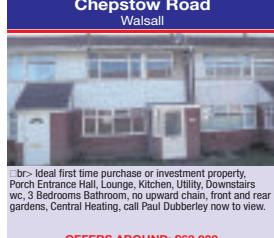
**Reduced**  
Aster Way  
Walsall

br>An immaculate modern detached residence in a sought after location close to good transport links and local amenities. Gas Central Heating and UPVC Double Glazing. Property must be viewed to appreciate the location. Call Paul Dubberley to view. EPC - B  
OFFERS AROUND: £189,950



**Reduced**  
Manorhouse Close  
Walsall

OFFERS AROUND: £85,000



**Reduced**  
Chepstow Road  
Walsall

OFFERS AROUND: £68,000



**Reduced**  
Merstone Close  
Bilton

OFFERS AROUND: £109,995



**Reduced**  
Havacre Lane  
Bilton

OFFERS AROUND: £129,950

2 Bedroom semi detached house, entrance porch and hallway, dining room, lounge, sunroom, kitchen, bathroom, central heating and double glazing, block paved driveway, rear garden with garage and parking access to rear, call Paul Dubberley to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £129,950



**Reduced**  
Bridgewater Drive  
Bilton

OFFERS AROUND: £165,000

Well Presented Modern Detached residence in a popular location close to all amenities and transports links. UPVC Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating and Offering No Upward Chain. Briefly Comprising: Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Front & Rear Gardens. Driveway and Garage.

OFFERS AROUND: £165,000

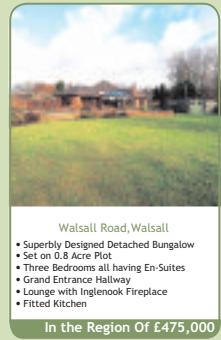
OFFERS AROUND:



**Walsall**  
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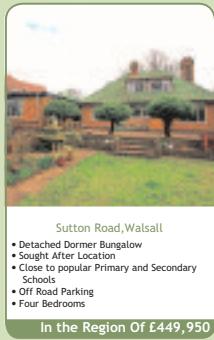


**Goodchilds**  
Estate Agents & Lettings



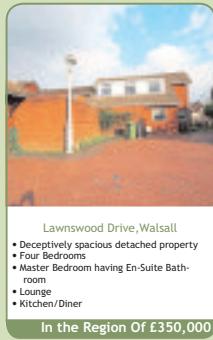
- Superbly Designed Detached Bungalow
- Set on 0.8 Acre Plot
- Three Bedrooms all having En-Suites
- Grand Entrance Hallway
- Lounge with Inglenook Fireplace
- Fitted Kitchen

In the Region Of £475,000



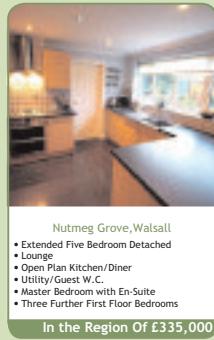
- Detached Dorner Bungalow
- Sought After Location
- Close to popular Primary and Secondary Schools
- Off Road Parking
- Four Bedrooms

In the Region Of £449,950



- Deceptively spacious detached property
- Four Bedrooms
- Master Bedroom having En-Suite Bathroom
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner

In the Region Of £350,000



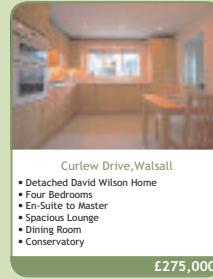
- Extended Five Bedroom Detached
- Lounge
- Open Plan Kitchen/Diner
- Utility/Guest W.C.
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Three Further First Floor Bedrooms

In the Region Of £335,000



- Four Bedroom Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen with Appliances
- Utility
- Further Reception/Garage
- En-Suite Bathrooms

In the Region Of £285,000



- Detached David Wilson Home
- Four Bedrooms
- En-Suite to Master
- Spacious Lounge
- Dining Room
- Conservatory

£275,000



- Detached Dorner Bungalow
- Four Double Bedrooms
- Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Charming Lounge with Open Fireplace
- Ground Floor Shower Room
- First Floor Bathroom

In the Region Of £275,000



- Superbly Appointed Link Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner
- Bathroom
- Lounge

Offers in the Region Of



- NEW BUILD
- Four Bedroom Detached
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen/Dining Room
- Downstairs Cloak Room
- Master Bedroom
- En-Suite Shower Room

£181,500



- Three-Storey Town House
- Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Three Bedrooms
- Two En-Suites
- Kitchen/Diner
- Lounge
- Sought After Development

£165,000



- Extended Modern Family Home
- Sought After Cul-De-Sac Location
- Superbly Refitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Lounge
- Dining Area
- Refitted Family Bathroom

In the Region Of £159,950



- NEW BUILD
- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen/Dining Room
- Downstairs Cloak Room
- Master Bedroom

£147,500



- Three Bedroom Detached
- Extended Entrance Hall
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen with Integrated Appliance
- Family Bathroom
- Integral Garage

In the Region Of £139,995



- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Family Bathroom
- Entrance Porch
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating

Offers in Excess of £126,000



- Unique Split Level Mews House
- Prime Location in Town Centre
- Original Character Features
- Lounge with feature fireplace
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms

£125,000



- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Newly Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Guest W.C.
- Three Bedrooms
- Newly Fitted Family Bathroom

Offers in Excess of £125,000



- Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- First Floor Bathroom
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Double Glazing
- Delightful Front & Rear Gardens
- No Upward Chain

In the Region Of £100,000



- Show Home Style Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen including Integrated Appliances
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower

Offers in the Region Of



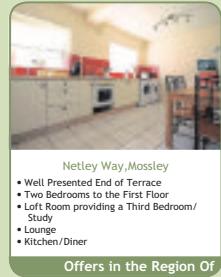
- Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Lounge/Diner
- Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens

In Excess of £100,000



- Spacious Town House
- Cul-De-Sac Location
- Lounge
- Ground Floor WC
- Three Generous Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Attractive Rear Garden

Offers in the Region Of



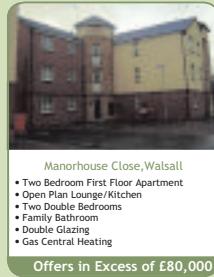
- Well Presented End of Terrace
- Two Bedrooms to the First Floor
- Loft Room providing a Third Bedroom/Study
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner

Offers in the Region Of



- Three Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Rear Garden
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

Offers in Excess of £80,000



- Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

Offers in Excess of £80,000



- IDEAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY
- Two Bedroom First Floor Flat
- Secure Intercom Access
- Entrance Hall
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen

In the Region Of £79,950



- TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT
- Secured Entrance
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom with Shower
- Allocated Parking

Offers excess of £78,500



- Two Bedroom Second Floor Apartment
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom with Shower
- Allocated Parking

In the Region Of £78,000

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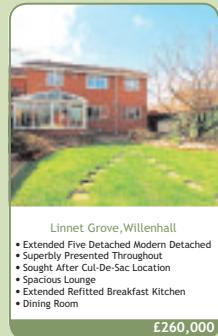


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Estate Agents & Lettings



- Four Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Situated In a Plot just under 1 Acre
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Utility area
- Shower room with separate shower

In the Region Of £264,995



- Extended Five Detached Modern Detached
- Superbly Presented Throughout
- Sought After Cul-De-Sac Location
- Spacious Lounge
- Extended Refitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Dining Room

£260,000

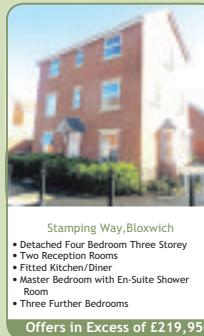


NEW



- Three Bed Detached
- breakfast kitchen
- spacious lounge
- bathroom to the ground floor
- two double bedrooms
- delightful gardens
- off road parking
- car port

£220,000



- Detached Four Bedroom Three Storey
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room
- Three Further Bedrooms

Offers in Excess of £219,950



- Modern detached property
- EXCELLENT TRANSPORT LINKS
- Off Road Parking
- Spacious Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Conservatory

£200,000



- Two/Three Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- One/Two Reception Rooms
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room

In the Region Of £200,000



- Entrance Hall
- Guest Cloakroom
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Family Bathroom

Asking price of £139,950



- Two Bedroom Mid Townhouse
- Open Plan Lounge / Kitchen
- Guest WC
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Family Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating

Offers in Excess of £135,000



- Traditional Semi-Detached
- Off Road Parking
- Beautiful Rear Garden Overlooking Countryside
- Superb Open-Plan Kitchen/Diner
- Three Bedrooms

In the Region Of £137,500



- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Conservatory
- Garage/Games Room

In the Region Of £135,000



- Extended Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Additional Sitting Room/Bedroom
- Ground Floor Wet Room
- Three Bedrooms

In Excess of £135,000



- Three Storey Town House
- Three Bedrooms
- Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Spacious Lounge with Juliet Balcony

Offers in the Region Of



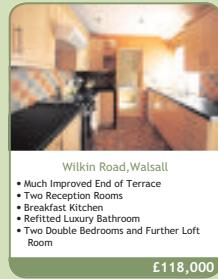
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Offers in the Region Of



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- Family Bathroom

Offers in the Region Of



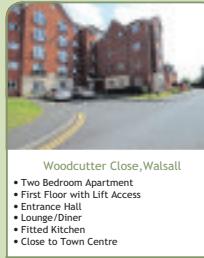
- Two Bedroom Second Floor Apartment
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- Two Bed Terrace
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Offers in the Region Of



- Two Bedroom Apartment
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- Lounge/Diner
- Kitchen
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Close to Town Centre

In the Region Of £94,950



- End of Terrace Corner Plot
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge
- Study/Utility Room
- Shower Room

Offers in the Region Of



- Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
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- Rear Lobby with Utility
- Guest WC
- Two Double Bedrooms

Offers in Excess of £85,000



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Offers in Excess of £75,000



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- Two Double Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- Kitchen
- Bathroom

In the Region Of £74,950



- Two Bedroom First Floor Flat
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Utility Room
- Two Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom

£67,000



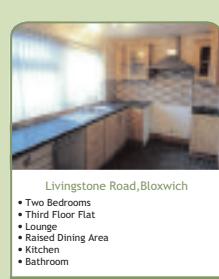
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Offers in the Region Of



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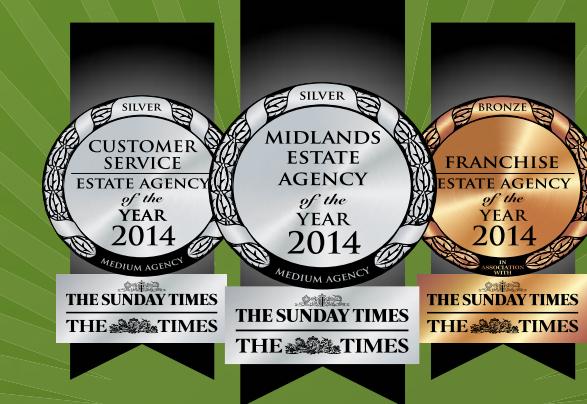
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# Audi's new A6 may well have just hit sweet spot

By Matt Kimberley

Thrilling it isn't, but the new Audi A6 is a wonderful everyday drive nonetheless.

It feels like the A6 has been around since Moses, but there are specific updates for this year.

Technophiles will like the new LED headlight options, including the fantastic Matrix LED units that blank off individual LEDs to maintain main beam illumination while avoiding dazzling other drivers.

Amazingly, the windscreen and front side windows are now double glazed as standard.

There's also a smoothly-integrated new infotainment system with more features, and of course engine revisions that take the most economical A6 up to 67.3mpg and 109g/km – but only in the right specification.

Not much has changed outwardly unless you care to break out your electron microscope, but versions with LED headlights, like this S line car, don't need fog lights any more.

The function is built into the complex LED units, so you won't see pointless extra lamps on the front.

The A6 has a deservedly superb image, whether it's as a long-legged company car or as a carry-all premium family bus.

It's well known for its refinement, materials quality and comfort – and all three are borne out with this 2015 update.

The Avant estate model is obviously the bigger of the two chief body styles, packing enough space for more or less anything you're likely to need to carry.

With the rear seats folded down there are van-like proportions to play with, but the normal boot area alone is enough for pushchairs, big suitcases or smaller pieces of furniture.

A nice touch is a cupholder design that grips containers firmly and stops them tilting.

Mechanically speaking, the car is also a great fit for the S tronic automatic gearbox, which helps waft the A6 along with dignity and quiet restraint.

It's supremely welcome in traffic, too, removing the strain often felt by your left leg.

A butter-smooth drivetrain is perfect for the A6.

It hums along so creamy, it's hard to believe that just a decade ago Audi was still using the clattery old TDI PD engines.

The latest common-rail 2.0-litre diesel is a marvellous thing, if lacking a little in outright punch in this car.

The ride is comfy enough, despite the 18-inch wheels here, and you immediately notice how big and stable it feels both in a straight line and through corners, where it grips like a barnacle to a boat.

Intelligent design means that the gearbox holds lower gears when going downhill, for example, to help with engine braking.

On the downside, the steering is rather elastic-feeling and doesn't have any real sense of connection to the front wheels.

The harder you drive along winding roads, the worse it seems to get.

The silver lining is that it's light and responsive at low speeds, making car parks lighter work than they might be.

Or you could just let the car park itself; you just need to select Drive and Reverse when the car tells you.

S line trim, the Avant body style and the S tronic gearbox bump this car's price up a few thousand pounds, but by A6 standards, it's not that pricey at all.

It might just be a sweet spot in the range, too, with maximum practicality, enough comfort and luxury and low running costs.

We managed just short of 52mpg on a 40-minute loop of mixed roads. Not bad for a big ol' barge like the A6.

This is such an effective all-rounder that many different types of people might buy it, for overlapping reasons.

Families who need space and technology, and business users who want comfort and prestige, are the primary groups likely to make a bee-line straight for the Ultra TDI version. And they'd be wise to do so.

This car summed up in a single word: Serene.

If this car was a chauffeur it would arrive wearing an immaculate suit before demonstrating impeccable manners out on the road.

## TESTED

Audi A6 Avant TDI Ultra S line, £37,935

**Engine:** 2.0-litre diesel producing 187bhp and 295lb/ft

**Transmission:** Seven-speed automatic driving all four wheels

**Performance:** Top speed 140mph, 0-62mph in 8.5 seconds

**Economy:** 57.6mpg combined (18-inch wheels)

**Emissions:** 115g/km of CO<sub>2</sub> (18-inch wheels)



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2011/61 Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRI Nav 5dr Hatch, Panacotta, 36000 miles... £8300

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2012/12 Meriva 1.4 Exclusiv 5dr MPV, Chilli Orange, 15943 miles... £7700

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2012/12 Meriva 1.4 SE 5dr MPV, Oriental Blue, 12000 miles... £8300

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2011/61 Meriva 1.4 S MPV, Sovereign Silver, 31000 miles... £6200

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2012/12 Zafira 1.7 CDTi Design 5dr MPV, Sovereign Silver, 26000 miles... £9000

2012/12 Zafira 1.8 Design 5dr MPV, Sovereign Silver, 15000 miles... £9600

2013/63 Zafira 2.0 CDTi SRI Tourer S/S 5dr MPV, Carbon Flash, 11000 m... £14000

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2012/12 Chevrolet Orlando 1.8 LS 5dr MPV, Pewter Grey, 23800 miles... £8000

2012/12 Chevrolet Orlando 1.8 LT 5dr MPV, Pewter Grey, 28000 miles... £7800

2008/08 Peugeot 107 1.0 Urban 5dr Hatch, Raven Black, 26600 miles... £4000



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# Specialist tuition at circuit

By James Parker

**Get Going Live!**, the test-driving event for young and novice drivers with disabilities, is back for 2015 and now incorporated into the well-known Mobility Roadshow at Donington Park, Derbyshire, June 25-27.

Get Going Live! is a free event focused on the needs of people age 15 and over that are keen to discover how to get behind the wheel of an accessible or adapted car.

All young visitors are welcome to attend the show with their families to discover the latest advice, specialist driving tuition and vehicles available for individuals with a variety of conditions.

Whether drivers use wheelchairs or not, attending Get Going Live! offers the unique opportunity to test drive vehicles around the historic and exciting Donington Park motorsport circuit for free.

This track is the location for the British Motorcycle Grand Prix and British Touring Car Championship and so promises an amazing experience.

Specialist professionals in dual-control vehicles will accompany every young driver, so they remain safe during test drives.

Leading motor manufacturers such as Ford, Vauxhall and Hyundai will have a range of specialist vehicles on display, both in the exhibition hall and on the test track.

Did you know if you have a disability, you can gain a driving licence a year earlier at the age of 16?

Visiting Get Going Live! will provide all the information required to achieve driving independence and visitors will even be able to try out the theory test.

This year Aaron Morgan, the only disabled racing driver to compete in the Production BMW Championships, will be at Get Going Live! as a show ambassador.

## Amazing

Aaron said: "Get Going Live! promises to deliver an amazing and unique day out for all young visitors and their families."

"As I race at Donington Park, being able to test drive accessible cars around the motorsport circuit for free is an amazing experience not to be missed."

"Get Going Live! is a 'must attend' opportunity for young people who are looking for their first adapted car. I can highly recommend it as you can talk to experts and find out from other people about how they learnt to drive."

"I will be at the show and really look forward to helping other young people with disabilities get in the driving seat."

Show ambassador Callum Hodgson will also be available to answer questions about driving with a disability as he first discovered adapted hand controls at a previous show.

Also, as Get Going Live! is part of this year's Mobility Roadshow, visitors will be able to see the many independent living



**'An amazing experience not to be missed'**

products and services from other exhibitors in the Donington Exhibition Hall.

There will be a vast range of products on display including wheelchairs, car boot hoists, ramps and in-vehicle safety systems.

Get Going Live! is co-hosted by the charities Mobility Choice and DMUK, supported by NFE group. To pre-register for a test drive or for further information on Get Going Live!, visit: [www.mobilityroadshow.co.uk](http://www.mobilityroadshow.co.uk)



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**ALL IN CARAVAN SALE.** Free site fees on 2 bed caravan. Stunning pitch on Brynnwen with sea views, 12 month site with lots of facilities, £12,975. Call Cari 07837 489013.

**BAILEY PAGEANT SANCERRE**  
2009, fixed bed, end bathroom, two awnings, all kit to start, non smoker, excellent condition. Maturity forces sale.  
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**01902 560420**

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**CARAVANS & CHALETS** For sale with seaviews. Clarach Bay near Aberystwyth from £4995 includes 2015 site fees. Call Phil on: 01970 626073. sales@clarachbay.com

**COMPASS GTE 430**  
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**ELDDIS CYCLONE GT.**  
1999 5 berth double beds back and front very good condition full and porch awning.  
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Finance Packages can be arranged with a small deposit.  
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All Furniture, Clocks, China, Medals, Coins, Paintings, Gold & Silver Jewellery  
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£495. 01922 414867

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Double mattress £69. Memory master extra

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## items for sale

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Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.
2. Do not attempt to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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[info@abbey-mechanical.co.uk](mailto:info@abbey-mechanical.co.uk)

TO LET Modern unit. Many possible uses. Secured and gated. WS10 0NQ £500pw. 07831 627117

### business directory

### businesses for sale

CONVENIENCE STORE Darlaston, Takings £7,000 PW Rent £12k PA OIRO £50k+SAV 01922 766742

### commercial premises

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### 7 Jobs

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### driving



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**6**  
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**9**  
**Local Information**

**public & legal notices**

**LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES**

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or email [marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk)

(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

**Walsall Council, Planning and Building Control**

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) act 1990 Development Management Procedure Order 2010 (as amended)

The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council. Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online [www.walsall.gov.uk](http://www.walsall.gov.uk). Representations should be made in writing to the First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall, WS1 1DG. Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice. Please note: Your letter and personal details form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Civic Centre. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

150485/FL Mr Nick Wilson FOR: Two storey side extension adjacent to public footpath no. DAR2421, 279 WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD WEST, WALSALL, WS2 0DT

150429/FL Homes and communities Agency FOR: Capping layer to site surface and erection of boundary fencing AT: FORMER IMI MILES BRIDGE COPPERWORKS, RESERVOIR PLACE, WALSALL

150385/OL Shipmills No 1 Ltd FOR: Outline planning application for redevelopment of the former Harvestine Bakery for up to 80 residential units with all matters reserved except means of access. AT: Former Harvestine Bakery, Holyhead Lane, Walsall, WS2 9RB

150003/FL Mr Khan FOR: Erection of two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and rear dormer (roof level) adjacent to public footpath Wal 10. AT: 1 Bescot Crescent, Walsall, WS1 4DQ

150501/AD Gregg plc FOR: Internally illuminated fascia sign and projecting box sign, with illumination of lettering and graphics only. AT: 7 SISTER DORA BUILDINGS, THE BRIDGE, WALSALL, WS1 1LW

150400/FL Gregg plc FOR: Installation of new shopfront, including roller shutter, steelawning, and 3 no. air conditioning units on rear elevations. AT: 7 SISTER DORA BUILDINGS, THE BRIDGE, WALSALL, WS1 1LW

150400/FL Gregg plc FOR: Installation of new shopfront, including roller shutter, steelawning, and 3 no. air conditioning units on rear elevations. AT: 7 SISTER DORA BUILDINGS, THE BRIDGE, WALSALL, WS1 1LW

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## Saddlers youth lift cup after comeback

Midland Youth Cup Final  
Walsall 2 Shrewsbury 1

WALSALL academy boss Neil Woods has hailed his players after they lifted the Midland Youth Cup.

Tevin Shakespeare's brace won it for Saddlers as they came from behind to beat Shrewsbury while they were on their home turf at the Banks's stadium.

The Saddlers fought back after going 1-0 down through a Josh Ginnelly goal.

Boss Woods said: "We played really well and it was a great way to end the season."

He added: "We deserved to win the game. Some of the saves their goalkeeper made were fantastic."

"The victory has been made much sweeter due to the quality of football we played."

Woods also paid tribute to Rico Henry who played his last game for the youth side in the recent fixture after progressing through the club ranks to the first team.

"I had to plead with the gaffer to let him play," said Woods.

"You can see the difference he makes."

"He has such a big heart and such a fabulous attitude," added Woods.

"He has such ability and he just controlled everything tonight."

"This will be the last time he plays for us, so we wish him well and I know he is going to have a really bright future in the game."

A number of the squad will find out whether they are being kept on by the club but Woods said he hopes the cup win will fire up those who will be staying with Saddlers.

"Hopefully this can give them a taste for success going into next season," he added.

## Dyer gets the matchwinner for the Blues

Blues 1 Charlton 0

LLOYD Dyer emerged as Birmingham's match-winner in a hard-fought 1-0 Championship success over Charlton.

Dyer, a second-half substitute, demonstrated his shooting ability with a 20-yard angled shot in the 82nd minute which plunged plucky Charlton to only their second away defeat in six games.

Birmingham's win mirrored the success which has been generated since the appointment of Gary Rowett.

He has been inspirational and following their midweek success at Reading it was hardly a surprise that Birmingham were always in an attacking mood.

This was reflected in the fourth minute when Robert Tesche produced a speculative long-range swirling shot which Stephen Henderson tipped on to the outside of the post.

It was a fair reflection of the game that Charlton were always a danger.

## Princely prize as side take spoils in cup

Lichfield & Walsall  
District Football League

Terry Smith cup final

PRINCE OF WALES 2 New Inns FC 1

League One

Boney Hay 3 Saddlers Arms 0  
Erdington Star 1 Dr. Johnson 5

League Two

Dog FC 2 Q-Bar 3  
GS Rockets 4 Duke of Wellington

0  
Oak Park Rangers 0 ASP Victoria

2

League Three

Green Rock Tav 3 Wych Elm FC 1  
Queens Head 1 Ros Park FC 0

Willenhall 3 Crowns 1 Burntwood

Town Res. 3

# Tired Khalsa manage to grab draw

Pegasus Juniors 1 Sporting Khalsa 1

CHAMPIONS Sporting Khalsa limped through their fourth game in seven days and had to dig deep to salvage a draw against Pegasus Juniors.

The exploits of the last week – with another week of endurance to come – showed with tired legs and tired heads on display during the long trip to Hereford.

Without goalkeeper James Pemberton and skipper Lee Wherton, both injured during Thursday's JW Hunt Cup game against Tividale, Khalsa boss Ian Rowe once again shuffled his pack with under-21s goalkeeper Ben Czerepaninec coming in for his debut.

But in a first half with little to recommend it, the home side had the best of what chances there were, with the exception of an effort by Sean Williams on seven minutes that flashed just wide of the post.

On 26 minutes, a Pegasus corner caused havoc in the Khalsa box and a chance fell to Kiae Cowley only for a great block by Paul Henley to deny what would surely have been a goal.

The second half saw the tempo step up against all physical odds, with the game opening up.

Williams and Chris Rabone combined well to set up Simeon Townsend, only for great defending by Pegasus to stop him in his tracks just after the restart and then Rogers just couldn't get the decisive

touch when he pushed forward from a free kick.

A break by Pegasus led by Wood saw him set up Ben Price only for an unlucky bobble on an immaculate pitch to save Khalsa and on the hour, a shot by substitute Nicky Campbell was brilliantly saved by Nathan Phillips.

Pegasus took an unlikely lead on 68 minutes, Price finishing superbly to fire past Ben Czerepaninec in the Khalsa goal.

Khalsa did get parity on 80 minutes through Brad Lawley – grabbing his 27th of the season – heading home a Campbell cross unmarked in the middle.

The visitors pressed for a winner and Andy Mowen did well to prevent Nisbett scoring.

# Wood win double over rivals Hayes

Walsall Wood 3 Heath Hayes 0

WOOD completed the league double over relegated Heath Hayes.

To give them their credit Hayes kept battling away, even when they went 3-0 down within 10 minutes of the start of the second half.

Wood threatened first when Corey Curritters attempted to fire across keeper Mark Wiggins.

The ball found its way out to Craig Deakin who put Curritters away wide left, he cut inside, rolled the ball across the six yard box for Harry Harris to calmly open the scoring.

Defences were on top for the rest of the half which quietly came to an end.

Wood increased their lead on 51 minutes, Curritters played a long ball, keeper Wiggins at full stretch couldn't hold it and it dropped behind him. Black tapped it in.

It got worse for the visitors when two minutes later Butlin fired the ball home.

Wood finished fourth on 79 points, two places and eight points better than last season, Long Eaton's draw at Kirby Muxloe saw them finish a point ahead in third place, with the Leicestershire outfit finishing in fifth, three points adrift..

Coleshill Town 2 Walsall Wood 1

Wood ended their away programme with a defeat at runners-up Coleshill, they went deservedly ahead through a Corey Curritters goal on 24 minutes but conceded the equaliser three minutes later.

From then on Town took almost total control and unlike the corresponding fixture at Oak Park deserved to take all three points.

After just two minutes James William whipped in a cross from wide right, Mykel Beckley getting in a stooping header that looped over the bar.

Then Curritters, who was under intense pressure, forced the ball home.

The lead lasted just three minutes, Beckley played the ball out wide right to Milligan who hit a superb lob from 45 yards that sailed over a furiously back pedalling Mario Kisiel and into the far corner. Wood started the second half better, two minutes in Curritters cut inside from the left, played a neat little 1-2 with Joey Butlin before releasing Harris into the left of the box, he nicked the ball past keeper Jay and went down under his challenge, penalty appeals ignored.

Then on 54 minutes Hayes played a ball into the left of the box, Butlin cleverly flicked the ball to his right for Harris to send a first time effort whistling wide.

Cutting's effort gave Kisiel no chance to put Town ahead for the first time.

## Saddlers ladies celebrate title



Walsall ladies have secured the title and won promotion. Picture: Kristofer Winpenny

TRIUMPHANT Walsall Ladies manager Lewis Jones believes his team can challenge in the West Midlands Premier Division next season following promotion.

Saddlers Ladies face a fresh challenge next year after clinching the Division One North title at the weekend.

Jones, who took over the managerial hotseat last summer, added

mits the achievements of the past few months have surpassed all expectations.

But he believes they will be well placed to compete again next term.

"We still have a cup semi-final to play, so we are hoping for a double," he said.

"Then the girls will have a nice summer off."

Walsall dropped just two points all season but were pushed all the way by Burton Albion. Ultimately, two victories over their rivals proved the difference and the title was confirmed by a 1-0 win over Wyrley. Star performers include goalkeeper Abbi Walker, who has kept 10 clean sheets, while striker Lauren Armstrong has netted 20 goals.

# Butlin adds to his tally for Walsall

Westfields 0 Walsall Wood 2

IT was a quiet start with Wood probably just shadowing the early exchanges, on 14 minutes Joey Butlin played a quick-fire 1-2 with Corey Curritters wide left, he fired in a cross to the far post that was headed just over by Luke Adams.

Five minutes later a delightful chip inside from Curritters wide left was superbly controlled by Butlin on the penalty spot, who flicked the ball up and over his marker before powering a low drive through keeper Matt Gwynne to give Wood the lead.

On 30 minutes a right wing free kick was hit first time by skipper Jamie Cuss deflecting over the bar off Shawn Booth for a corner that was easily cleared by a well organised Wood defence.

Three minutes later Adams profited from a bad pass in the centre midfield, swept the ball left to Curritters who raced into the box, was forced wide by Gwynne but stayed composed as the keeper raced back into his goal. Curritters cleverly beat two players, fired the ball into the centre, Craig Deakin took the ball left, away from the keeper and from beyond the left hand post fired into the net from an acute angle to put Wood firmly in control.

After 39 minutes Dean Lee got clear wide left, found Curritters on the left of the box, Gwynne out quickly and bravely to save at his feet.

Nine minutes later Palmer played a neat 1-2 with Lee to open up the Wood defence only to roll the ball into the grateful hands of Wood keeper Mario Kisiel.

A quickly taken left wing throw on 43 minutes found Butlin who released Curritters into the left of the box to hit a low drive into the side netting.

## Advancing

Straight to the other end and a slice of good fortune for Wood, a lovely through ball from Lee put Luke Corbett clear on the right of the box, his shot beat the advancing Kisiel, rebounded off the inside of the far post and straight to the prostrate keeper.

Five minutes into the second half, Curritters collected a ball from Harry Harris wide left, was strong as he went through 3 tackles, his far post drive acrobatically touched over by Gwynne, the corner ball was only half cleared out to Jamie Hawkins on 25 yards, his first time low drive inches wide.

On 58 minutes Butlin intercepted a crossfield

pass, found Curritters on the left of the box, Gwynne out quickly and bravely to save at his feet.

Nine minutes later, a high ball out wide by Hawkins found Butlin right of the box, he made the byeline, pulled the ball back into the path of Adams whose first time low drive went into the side netting.

With 77 minutes gone, Butlin strong wide right cut inside and hit a lovely crossfield ball to pick out Steven Hayles left of the box, his cross shot just short wide.

With 10 minutes remaining Wood eased up and nearly got caught out, first it was Zac Sirrell racing on a ball just outside the box, Deakin deflecting his rising drive over the bar.

Two minutes later Craig Jones collected the ball wide right, went on a mazy crossfield run, made space for a shot but was just too high.

86 minutes saw Sirrell collect a ball right of the box, fire in a low cross that Jones over-ran and the danger was cleared.

There was still time for Booth to break up an attack right of the box, handbags were exchanged on the floor but it was Booth who collected the red card.

## Wood will make debut for England senior team

WALSALL'S Jack Wood will still make his debut for England's senior team despite his nemesis coming back to haunt him in the Elite national final, writes Craig Birch.

The Wednesbury Boxing Club fighter was defeated for a second time by Luke McCormack, after a stellar performance from the top seed on Sunday.

He battled through to thwart Wood, after beating him in the 2012 national semi-finals of the Clubs for Young People competition, and take the belt.

Wood had battled through Friday's pre-quarters and Saturday's semi, putting out the third and then second rated at 60kg, at the Echo Arena in Liverpool.

But the 20-year-old will still represent his country at the Elite's Three Nations, though, after moving to No 2 in the weight's rankings.

England are the host nation this year so can make two entries, while Scotland and Wales only have one.

And trainer Stuart Grainger said: "Everyone associated with the club is so proud of Jack, there's no disgrace for him and he was unlucky to lose in the final."

"He's still going to box for England and he will be staying at the weight, as he feels comfortable and he's done fantastically well."

Wood first ousted Archie Sharp, from Rumbles in Kent, by split decision with aggression getting him the nod on points.

Then came the Army's Ryan Fillingham, who met him toe-to-toe for one of the fights of the day.

Wood sharper work saw him through unanimously.

## Walsall get share in six goal game

SWINDON 3 Walsall 3

GIVEN how strange this game was, it's probably just as well so little was riding on it.

Otherwise Dean Smith and Swindon boss Mark Cooper might have had cause for some sleepless nights after their sides played out an entertaining – if very odd – 3-3 draw.

Cruising with a two-goal lead which came as much from the generosity of their hosts than anything else, the Saddlers were pegged back by two Ben Gladwin penalties.

Substitute Romaine Sawyers then restored the visitors' lead, only for Jordan Turnbull to earn Swindon a point with a header nine minutes from time.

By full-time, the Saddlers had mathematically confirmed League One status for another season, while the hosts' already very slim hopes of automatic promotion were also over. But for the 6,305 present, it was well worth the money.

Smith sprang a minor surprise in selection by handing a rare start to Mal Benning.

## Saddlers are justified, says hitman Tom

TOM Bradshaw claims Walsall have finally started doing themselves justice – as he reflects on the 'dream' of scoring 20 goals for the season.

The 22-year-old's first-half brace earned the Saddlers a 2-0 win over Oldham and saw him reach the significant personal milestone in his first campaign at the Banks's.

Victory also moved Dean Smith's men into the top half of the table.

"It was only a couple of weeks ago we were getting sucked into the relegation battle and now we are 11th, looking at a possible top ten finish," said Bradshaw. "I think at the start of the season the top ten would not have been so bad, particularly after coming so close to the drop-zone."

"We are starting to do ourselves justice."

"This is how we can play."

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Heath's late hit gives run of five wins

**Ashton United 1 Rushall Olympic 2**  
RUSHALL Olympic made it a run of five wins in April following Jake Heath's stoppage time winner at play-off qualifiers Ashton United.

Although Rushall had nothing to play for, there was still the golden boot to be won and, after Aaron Williams had headed the Pies level with his 28th of the campaign, the award was all sewn up.

The first half passed by without much incident but Ryan Price sliced a clearance which fell to Martin Hill, but the Ashton winger's touch let him down and Price gathered.

Steven Leslie crossed for Aaron Williams, who headed straight at Ashton keeper, Paul Phillips.

It was a quality strike that opened the scoring for the hosts on 51 minutes as Max Harrop brought down a ball, flicked it past Steven Leslie and then finish at Price's near post.

Rushall pulled level through Williams on 71 minutes, heading in a Michael Townsend cross.

Carl Palmer smashed the bar for the visitors and substitute, Alex Reid fired wide and saw an effort thwarted.

It looked as though the points would be shared until Kris Taylor teed up Heath to fire in via a deflection in the dying moments.

**Ashton United:** Phillips, O'Connor (Young 75), Sherratt (Johnson 90), Mason, Pearson, Harrop, Briggs, Rick, Deegan (Leadbetter 62), Coppin, Hill. Subs not used: Baguley, Halford.

**Rushall Olympic:** Price, Christopherou, Leslie (Caines 72), Sinton, Duggan, Townsend, Heath, Palmer, Williams, Taylor, Austin (Reid 61).

Subs not used: Barnes, Delaney, Smith.

**Draw means the Lockmen are safe from the drop**

**Ellesmere 2 Willenhall Town 2**  
WILLENHALL are virtually safe from relegation after a 2-2 draw at Ellesmere Rangers in the West Midlands Premier.

Ellesmere keeper Mason Springthorpe was sent off early on for illegally denying a goalscoring opportunity.

But Brendan Price and Ryan Jones gave them a 2-0 lead at the break.

The Lockmen fought back and two goals in the final 14 minutes by Matt Dorgan forced the draw.

Ellesmere's Josh Parker was sent off seven minutes from time.

The Lockmen had eight players missing so it was a scratch side that returned from deepest Shropshire with the point that makes them all but safe from relegation.

The home side had the worst possible start when keeper Mason Springthorpe came to head clear a through ball, as he reached the edge of the area it bounced awkwardly and he instinctively caught the ball high above his head inches outside the area.

After long discussion with his assistant he decided that a goal-scoring opportunity had been denied.

Wood win double over rivals  
Page 43

Ladies celebrate title winner  
Page 43

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## Bradshaw ends things on a high



Walsall's Jordy Hiwula tries for goal

Walsall 2 Oldham 0

A first-half brace from Tom Bradshaw, who reached 20 goals for the campaign in the process, gave them an advantage their opponents never seemed too bothered about overhauling. With it came three points which took them past last term's total and into the top half of League One.

Manager Dean Smith now has the statistics to back up claims his team have made progress over the last 12 months.

Undeniably they have, not before time, suddenly hit on a winning formula in attack, having netted a quarter of their league goals for the

Football

season in the last fortnight. Yet keeping this momentum going into the start of next season may depend on the manager's ability to maintain some key components of the side.

Loanees Michael Cain and Jordy Hiwula, for example, have flourished in a new-look 4-3-3 formation which for the second game running gave the Saddlers a freedom and pace in attack so often missing.

Smith can relax in the knowledge Bradshaw is tied down for next season.

Colts lost out in fight for the title

**Walsall Colts 15 Stourbridge Colts 24**  
WALSALL Colts were rather unlucky to lose their Fred Rowley tournament match.

Stourbridge dominated the early stages with Josh Trinham cutting through for a try within three minutes. Stephen Whiting and Bobby Harding scored a try apiece, while a Harry Duffield conversion and a penalty had given his team a 15-10 lead with less than 10 minutes left.

Man of the match Trinham was quick to set up a length-of-the-field, match winning, counter attack. Ollie Shergold converted the try and another late score.

**Walsall 3rds 41 Whitchurch 3rds 26**

This turned out to be one of the best games of the season with Whitchurch providing a stern test for Walsall with both teams playing good rugby.

Walsall's pack dominated the scrum which gave a great platform for the team.

The game was closely fought throughout.

Try scorers were Dominic Wiercivic (2), Tom Bird, Neil Green, Phil Stanley, Andy Richardson, and Jeffrey Williamson. Skipper James Quigley kicked three conversions.

Walsall 15s finished the season in great style, scoring freely against an Alcester side who showed some strong spirit throughout the game.

Walsall played some fine rugby and put 68 points past Alcester who scored two fine tries. Walsall's scorers were Nico Watkins four tries, Sam Garbett two tries, Shane Wright, Finn Moseley, Jamie Harding and Will Hennessy also scored.

**Wednesday U-14s 31**  
**Walsall U-14's 41**

**Saddlers will get £150,000 boost**

WALSALL are set for a £150,000 cash boost after former striker Troy Deeney helped Watford to the Premier League.

Deeney left the Banks's for Vicarage Road for around £500,000 in August 2010 but the deal included a clause which would see the Saddlers receive the six-figure sum should the striker fire the Hornets to promotion.

Watford ended their eight-year exile from the top flight on Saturday when they won 2-0 at Brighton to win automatic promotion, with Deeney on target.

Deeney put them on their way to victory and four points clear of third-placed Middlesbrough with one game left.

## SADDLERS WIN EPIC BATTLE

Walsall 4 Chasetown 3

**WALSALL** lifted the Walsall Senior Cup for the first time in their history beating a spirited Chasetown side that ran them all the way.

It took 120 minutes at the Banks's for the Saddlers to finally down their dogged opposition, with Amadou Bakayoko firing the winner midway through extra-time.

Matt Preston sent an early warning wide of John Bateman's goal, heading a Reece Flanagan free-kick wide before Flanagan had a go himself, driving well over from 30-yards.

The clearest opening came on 20 minutes, the Scholars this time knocking it around at midfield and Richard Davies was able to collect a give-and-go with Simon Brown before firing an effort narrowly wide.

### Pressure

Walsall, with Dean Smith's assistant Richard O'Kelly in presence on the touchline, had their opening half summed up when, following intense high pressure, Bakayoko nodded to Flanagan who again blasted well over from distance.

But there was a bit more zip about the host's play as they came out for the second period, and within six minutes the League One side breached the Chasetown defence,

Bakayoko was able to feed the ever-adventurous Rico Henry whose first-time cross was clinically swept home by Murphy.

The lead lasted merely five minutes, Chasetown broke down the right-hand side and some perseverance from Brown saw him bundled over by Kyle Rowley.

Brown picked himself up to thump the spot-kick straight down the middle, with Jezeph diving.

Law's side turned the tie on its head on 68 minutes when a fast-paced break from Waite and Edwards led to the former putting the left-winger through, Edwards keeping his composure and slotting under Jezeph.

And the lead was extended two minutes later, Edwards swung in a free-kick from the right,



Rico Henry on the ball for the Saddlers in last night's Walsall Senior Cup final

the Saddlers back-line could clear only as far as Davies who fired a volley back in.

The Saddlers gave themselves hope with 12 minutes remaining in what was proving to be a pulsating second-half. Flanagan this time left free-kick duty to Henry, who delivered an inch-perfect cross from the left that was met by Murphy and guided his header perfectly beyond Bateman.

The comeback was completed five minutes minutes later by Henry, the marauding full-back created his sides first two, this time jinking inside and playing a neat one-two with Murphy before his low strike deflected agonizingly beyond

Bateman in the Chasetown goal. The Evo-Stik Division One South side did not lie down and went looking for a fourth, Edwards again providing good width down the left, swinging in a cross that Ashley Grayson could only help wide.

As the clock neared 90 the busy Liam Kinsella fired well over for the Saddlers before Bakayoko took far too much time when well-placed and was dispossessed.

On the stroke of half-time in extra-time the hosts finally edged ahead through Bakayoko, the powerful forward had grown into the game and profited on a Kouhyar miss-kick following good work from Baxendale to smash home the winner.

★★★

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